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MK NEWS

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HIV mum is pregnant again

SEE PAGE 9

A paw-fect day for Dermot

SEE PAGE 23

Hero rescues staff in chemical horror

BY JESSICA DUNCAN

jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

AN OFF-DUTY firefighter is believed to have rescued two people who had collapsed in a dry cleaners on Monday.

According to businesses and residents the unsung hero, who works at a fire station in London, pulled people outside to safety following a suspected chemical leak at Wharfside Dry Cleaners in Fenny Stratford.

The Health and Safety Executive is 'making inquiries' after six people were treated from the effects of a chemical, believed to be tetrachloroethylene, which can cause people to lose consciousness.

Mel Drury, from Shenley Lodge, was picking up her daughter from Kiddicare Creches in Watling Avenue when she saw the emergency services arrive at about 3.20pm.

Parked near the dry cleaners she was told by firefighters to remain in her car until the contaminated area was safe.

The 37-year-old said: "Sitting in my car I was really worried what was in the air, my chest felt tight but I think it was just because I was panicking, like you do when these things happen.

"Everyone was then evacuated to Kiddicare, who were great. We all waited there for safety and the staff kept everyone calm."

Bystanders, including many workers at businesses asked to close all their doors with customers inside or evacuate, told MK NEWS they saw people lying down outside the dry cleaners and some were being sick.

Do you know the firefighter? Call 01908 689582 or visit facebook.com/mymkweb

Drama: Wharfside Dry Cleaners in Fenny Stratford is cordoned off by police after a suspected chemical leak this week

CHEMICAL FACTS

THE process of dry cleaning involves the use of liquid chemicals called solvents.

Tetrachloroethylene, which is also known as perc, is the most common chemical used in the dry cleaning industry.

It evaporates and dries in the air and short-term exposure can result in irritation of the eyes, kidney dysfunction, loss of co-ordination, dizziness, headache, sleepiness and unconsciousness.

Max Osborner, owner of No.1 Barbers, said: "We had to shut the shop and our customers were trapped inside.

"Police closed the road really quickly and we just had to watch what was going on.

"All I could see was one guy lying on the ground outside that looked like the owner. He was taken away in an ambulance. The chemical smell was apparently quite strong."

On MKWeb's Facebook page Wendy Thompson commented: "I saw three people semi-conscious and vomiting with another starting to be overcome.

"The two paramedics who were first on the scene deserve much praise. I wouldn't be surprised if they also needed treatment."

Two people were taken to Milton Keynes Hospital for treatment while the other four were treated on the scene. Colin Donaldson from Donaldson's Gunsmiths, which is next door to the dry cleaners, said: "I think the chemicals just overcame them.

"This could have happened to anyone and Arthur [the owner of Wharfside] is a really nice chap."

MK NEWS approached owner Arthur Queeley who was in his shop yesterday but he did not want to comment.

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Dreaming of a white XMAS in MK

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Chablis La Pierrelee 2011 La Chablisienne

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Pouilly Fumé 2013 Dom. de Fontenille x 2
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Ch. Rousseau de Sipian 2006 Medoc x 2
Ch. des Tours 2008 Ste Croix du Mont AOC
Warre's LBV 2009 Port

All wines are subject to availability. If a wine listed is no longer available then an alternative will be offered and the case price may change.

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Chocs away: Parents of Henry Allen, Mark and Dawn, will be handing out selection boxes collected in our appeal to children with cancer

Please help Selection Box Appeal

PLEASE help us bring a little Christmas cheer to scores of needy children in Milton Keynes by supporting our Selection Box Appeal.

Instead of spending time and money sending Christmas cards to each other in the workplace this year, why don't you get everyone in the office to support The Henry Allen Trust.

This year, the charity, set up to support children with cancer following the death of four-year-old Henry Allen, is the beneficiary of the MKWeb and MK NEWS appeal.

The selection boxes will go towards children suffering with cancer and their families.

Selection boxes are already on offer in supermarkets and all you need to do is get all your office's boxes together and bring them to the MK NEWS offices.

The trust, which was set up in March in memory of Henry who died of Neuroblastoma just over a year ago, will receive the chocolate treats donated by our readers after topping our online poll.

Boxes can be donated at our office, which is located in Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU.

100 new homes to ease crisis

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

MILTON Keynes Council is set to announce plans to spend £10million on building up to 100 new homes over the next two to three years.

Although sites are still being finalised and planning permission secured, the authority hopes to build small-scale developments for existing communities and a future generation of tenants.

The announcement follows the completion of 13 wheelchair-accessible bungalows in Stacey Bushes, with 13 further bungalows being built in West Bletchley in the new year.

Cllr Hannah O'Neill, cabinet member for housing, said: "The administration gave a commitment to start building 200 new council homes by 2017. This is the first stage of delivering on that promise, a significant contribution to the number of affordable homes MK."

A decision on the new homes is due to be made at a meeting of the council's cabinet on December 8.

The move comes amid a housing crisis in the city. The council had to buy 40 houses in January and was also spending more than £880,000 a year on housing homeless people in city hotels. In December 2013, 38 families had been placed in B&Bs for longer than the lawful six weeks – the most outside of London.

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Sing: Yaw Asiyama and singer Mary Kay at the launch of the Bring Me A Song carol writing contest

Get intu carols this Xmas

THE Bring Me a Song Christmas carol competition is coming to intu Milton Keynes in December.

MKWeb and MK NEWS have teamed up with the shopping centre to invite Milton Keynes' budding carol writers to create a new Christmas song.

The King, also known as Yaw Asiyama, a writer and director of Yaw's House Productions, will select his top 10 to be performed during the weekend of December 6-7.

The people of MK can then vote for their favourite and the winner will get to professionally record their song.

Songwriters can find a singer or perform their song themselves, but must be available that weekend.

Entries are being accepted now.

Those interested should contact Yaw Asiyama at yaw.asiyama@gmail.com by Monday.

Plans to set up vigilante group

BY JESSICA DUNCAN

jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

GANG violence has fuelled talks of a vigilante group being set up by residents in Fishermead to keep the peace.

It comes after a man was seriously attacked by a gang on Monday.

The 37-year-old victim was asked for a cigarette by a man, belived to be Somalian, before being beaten up by a gang and suffering serious head injuries.

Speaking to MK NEWS Gemma Spencer, who lives on the estate, says the community feels police are not taking residents' concerns seriously. Her boyfriend was stabbed in the arm and robbed of £10 on September 26 near Porthleven Place. Gemma says he has still heard nothing from police.

The 34-year-old mother-of-two said: "We had a meeting with Fishermead Residents' Association, the chief of police and councillors after concerns about the number of sexual assaults, robberies and drug dealing – many involving Somalians.

"But we just felt fobbed off and that our concerns were not taken seriously.

"Bushes have been cut down but there has been no promise of CCTV, or police officers on patrol. I don't think it's just Somalian people involved but the gangs are a problem, despite police continuing to deny it.

"There are now talks of a vigilante group being set up."

The assault on Monday took place between 1am and 1.50am as the victim was walking near Gurnards Avenue and Pencarrow Place.

He suffered head and hand injuries and remains in a stable condition at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Officers were unable to comment on speculation of a vigilante group being formed before this paper went to print last night.

Jailed: Shannon Jeffers and Daryl Cable are behind bars

Pair threatened with knife and boiling jam in drug row

TWO men have been jailed for seven years each for false imprisonment and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Shannon Jeffers, 24, of no fixed abode, and Daryl Cable, 23, of Kingsley Road, Luton, were found guilty at Aylesbury Crown Court earlier this month.

On April 26, the pair entered a flat in The Gables, Wolverton, claiming the residents had stolen their crack cocaine and heroin.

They demanded cash and threatened the two men, aged 36 and 40, with a carving knife and boiling water mixed with jam.

They tied up one man and tried to trap them inside the property. One man escaped to raise the alarm before police attended.

Detective Constable John Swallow said: "This was a vicious and sustained attack,

"I am pleased they are off the streets for a long time."

SEE MORE STORIES LIKE THIS ONLINE
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ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Billy Harley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Bedford, Milton Keynes & Leighton Buzzard areas and Billy is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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MK LETTERS

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Wheely bad bus blues

WITH the amount of residents populating the many areas of Milton Keynes, the number 4 bus service to arrive on time has become a type of rarity.

Living in Milton Keynes has its perks, but the travelling to and from parts of MK has become a nuisance, leaving me with no other choice than to leave at least an hour-and-a-half early to get to sixth form on time.

The radical extent into how bad the service is can be seen by the two hour waiting time to simply get from Great Holm to Wolverton.

I am not the first person to complain about this dreadful service, as many people who I have encountered on my many hours of waiting have experienced the same ridiculous service.

Call me selfish but this is not only affecting my life but also affecting the lives of citizens trying to make their commute to work; they face a gruelling journey which may also make them late, leading to people possibly losing their jobs. The knock on effect is evident and needs to be rectified.

A solution to this situation is to possibly replace the packed and overcrowded 4 bus service with the less used, much larger and modern 300 bus service.

Seeing as the 300 only has to travel roughly 5.25 miles compared to the much longer route of the 4 service of about 7.5 miles, I believe this is more than a justifiable reason to replace the 4 with the 300.

Again, you must be thinking I'm really selfish to ask Arriva to completely change buses, but bringing all points together, this does make sense. It is a fact that a lot more people use the 4 every day compared to the consistently empty 300. Not only does the 4 bus service encounter these problems but also a wide range of other buses which travel long distances.

'Get a car' is the obvious answer from most car owners, but with the massively high car prices and the goliath price for tax and insurance, this leaves citizens with no choice as they simply cannot afford the costs that comes with owning a car.

If Arriva does not like this idea than at least add a few more buses into the 4 bus schedule just so that the residents of Bletchley, Springfield, Great Holm, Two Mile Ash and Wolverton have a chance of being somewhere on time.

The bus service is so poor that by the time my bus has arrived I have written this letter to MK NEWS. Thanks for your time and may all bus users have good luck on their travels. (you'll need it if you want to get anywhere punctually).

Nathan Caesar
Sent via email

Sacking is 'madness'

I WAS both shocked and amazed to read of the terrible injustice meted out to firefighter Ricky Matthews, who was dismissed by Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

How on earth can this be in the public interest to lose such a highly trained fireman with 17 valuable years of experience just because he attended a trade union meeting? It's utter madness.

For a country which prides itself on democracy and individual rights, the shocking actions of the fire service are a cause of great disservice to the public in their totalitarian approach to its employees.

Mr Matthews is obviously being singled out as an example to others in the hope to scare off further potential strike action participation. Public sector workers have always had to fight for better working conditions and will always have the majority of public support for their cause.

I sincerely hope whoever is responsible for the absolutely outrageous decision to dismiss Mr Matthews is brought to book and the disciplinary action taken against him is rescinded immediately.

Name and address supplied

■ *See page 11 for the latest from the fire service*

Call for elected mayor

A FEW years ago I seem to recall a campaign for an elected mayor in Milton Keynes.

It did not get past the council, however, with regard to 'taxigate' and the fact that MK has become a litter strewn eyesore in recent months, I think that the idea of an elected mayor should be resurrected, and that he/she should be solely answerable to the MK taxpapayers.

William Grist
Portchester Court, Great Holm

Your views on CMK's parking

Send comments on stories to letters@mk-news.co.uk

Rebecca @bexface19
Milton Keynes seriously needs to get parking zones solely for workers. I'm sick of looking for spaces and then shoppers steal them.

Jon Harvey @CllrJonSHarvey
@YourMKWeb will parking spaces near CMK station lost to Morrisons be replaced? Now impossible to park from mid-morning.

Col A-B @mkcol
@YourMKWeb parking so bad yesterday I took the train instead – from Wolverton to CMK!

Rae @RaetheVirtualPA
@YourMKWeb my boy @HelpEllis loves doing #ParkRun but because of parking charges can't afford it very often so it's unfair charges limit visits. We want #WillenLake to go back to having free parking. We don't go there hardly ever since the parking charges – we used to go almost daily.

Matt Cartwright @notmyipod
Have arrived in cold and sunny Milton Keynes. Hope work pay for my parking expenses cause it ain't cheap to park here

■ **For more of your views on parking in Milton Keynes, turn to Letters Extra on pages 26 and 27**

Mark's Monthly Focus

Put your questions to Mark Lancaster MP

MILTON Keynes South MP Iain Stewart has recently been involved in campaigns to combat health conditions such as pancreatic cancer, motor neurone disease and Huntingdon's disease. We ask him what he hopes to achieve.

What has sparked your interest in these health conditions?

I recently had a number of experiences which moved me to get more involved. The first case involved learning about the death of the partner of one of my fellow MPs. After 30 years together he died just a few weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

All cancers are nasty but pancreatic cancer can be particularly aggressive and there is much more that can be done to improve its diagnosis and treatment.

I was also recently honoured and humbled to meet the 1995 World Cup South African rugby star, Joost van der Westhuizen, who has an advanced form of Motor Neurone Disease.

It was incredibly moving and inspiring to see how he has not allowed his affliction to get him down but to campaign and fundraiser for better treatment and research into the condition.

I also recently met the parents of Henry Allen who, as many readers know, sadly died from neuroblastoma. I was able to introduce them to the Prime Minister so that they could raise directly with him their concerns and aspirations about treatment of this horrible disease.

So what more can be done?

While each rare disease obviously needs its own specific research and treatments, they often share common requirements.

An important factor is achieving earlier diagnosis of the conditions. Many of the symptoms are difficult to associate with a particular disease at first and GPs may only encounter a very small number of them in their careers.

Too often, too much time is lost between a sufferer first visiting their GP and the condition being diagnosed because other possibilities have first to be ruled out.

It is also important that more medical research is carried out into these conditions so that we know more about what causes them, how the symptoms can be mitigated and, ultimately, that a cure can be found. It is important to make sure that these rarer diseases also get their fair share of research resources.

How do you go about this?

The main role MPs can play is making sure that these conditions get the attention of ministers and the wider public alike.

I have joined some of the All Party Groups for these diseases and work with MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum to raise their profile. For example, the Pancreatic Cancer Group recently secured a debate in Parliament to push for improvements and, in response, the Health Minister was able to announce clinical trials of a new treatment.

It will be a long battle to defeat many of these diseases but it is a cause worth fighting for and I will continue to do my bit.

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An e-edition of our paper is also available online

Look at these bad parkers!

EVERYONE knows parking is a major issue in Milton Keynes – more than 1,000 of you have now signed our Fair Parking petition calling for more spaces to be made available at cheaper rates.

There's only one thing worse than not being able to find a gap in a car park – seeing someone else's car straddling two bays.

So we've been on the look-out for the worst offenders – the MK News parking police are on patrol and we want you to help us.

The drivers of the cars in these pictures was obviously having a few problems – and we're sure there are worse offenders out there.

It's easy to join in – just send in your pictures of these car park crimes to **editor@mk-news.co.uk** or tweet them to **@YourMKWeb** and we'll do the rest, so get snapping!

'Parking policy is right for MK'

BY REBECCA SMITH
editor@mk-news.co.uk

THE councillor in charge of thousands of parking spaces in Central Milton Keynes has defended the two-tier charging system.

It follows MK NEWS launching its Fair Parking campaign after being inundated with readers' comments about issues in the city. Many have complained about the lack of standard-rate purple spaces

But Councillor Mick Legg said the higher-rate red spaces were designed for shorter stays, while the purple spaces were generally for workers.

He said: "It's right there are two levels of charging. Without that, people who work in the centre would arrive at 7am and park in the spaces all day, meaning shoppers would not be able to use them. We have located mostly lower-cost purple spaces where people work as the business community is important to us."

Milton Keynes Council is currently conducting a parking review, due to end in the spring. A council spokesman revealed that, of the council's parking spaces, 10,000 are charged at the standard 40p-an-hour rate, or £3.20 for eight hours. MK employees pay half that, at £1.60 a day.

He said the higher-rate red bays are payable in 15 minute slots, adding: "People don't stay in short-stay bays for long periods."

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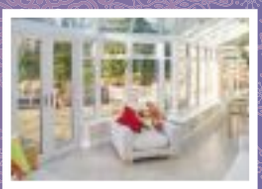

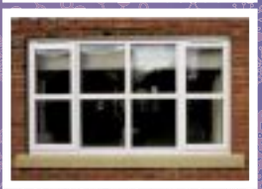

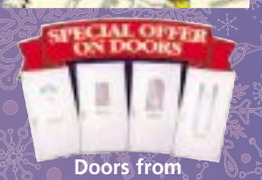

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Happy family: Pregnant Amanda Mammodova with her husband Ali and their daughter Saabria

HIV mum's joy at second baby

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

A MUM with HIV wants to raise awareness of the deadly virus after falling pregnant with her second child.

Amanda Mammodova, 33, from Milton Keynes was diagnosed with HIV in 2010 – three months after meeting her husband, Ali. Desperate for a family, Ali agreed to risk contracting HIV. The pair conceived now 21-month-old Saabria, who was born HIV free. Ali has not contracted the virus either and the couple are now expecting their second child in June.

Amanda said: "Ali has always supported me and is willing to get HIV so we can be a normal couple. I tried to persaude him to go down the insemination route but he wanted us to conceive naturally. I had always wanted a family but when I was diagnosed I thought my chances had been destroyed."

Amanda was devastated to discover an ex-partner had unknowingly passed on the virus. She feared Ali, 29, would end their relationship.

Amanda said: "HIV hasn't ruined my life. I married Ali eight months after my diagnosis. At first I was petrified about how people would react but thankfully the people around me are very supportive. I was worried I'd pass on HIV to my child, as it can be passed on during pregnancy. I also have an older daughter from a previous relationship and I was worried I wouldn't see her grow up, but the doctors reassured me I'd live a happy and normal life – that gave me hope for the future."

Sarah Radcliffe, of the National AIDS Trust (NAT), said: "NAT applauds Amanda for challenging the HIV stigma. Her story is not unusual, though the HIV stigma can make it difficult for everyone to be open about their experiences, like she has been."

Private rent rise is unlikely after vote

RENT in the private housing sector is unlikely to be raised after landlords claimed victory over Milton Keynes Council in a battle over whether licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HiMOs) should be introduced.

The authority's cabinet has voted not to extend licensing of shared housing following a detailed independent report.

Milton Keynes Private Landlord Association chairman Alex Caravello, *pictured*, said: "The people of Milton Keynes can finally stand up and say, with conviction and without contradiction, that we have a fantastic private rented sector."

Grab a bargain this Black Friday

THIS year's Black Friday – on November 28 – promises to be the biggest yet with more retailers taking part than ever.

intu Milton Keynes is holding its first Black Friday event this weekend.

There will be market stores selling plenty of gifts and treats perfect to give out to loved ones at Christmas. Expect food stalls, as well as home accessories, festive decorations, antiques, vintage bric-a-brac and more. The centre will have a giant display wall which will be kept up-to-date with the latest offers and discounts available. The offers will be posted on the centre website.

You can keep up to date with all the best offers at **www.mkweb.co.uk**.

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Chief fire officer will be replaced

Taking care of carers

CARERS Milton Keynes is staging an event at Acorn House as part of Carers Rights Day on Friday to help raise awareness of the services available.

The group wants to boost the number of people it helps from 2,500 to 6,000 within the next three years.

They include carer Susie Honour, from Wavendon, pictured above with her husband John, who suffered a stroke 15 years ago.

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Fire and Rescue's controversial Chief Fire Officer Mark Jones has announced he will step down in January.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Chief Operating Officer Jason Thelwell will succeed Mr Jones as the head of the service.

The appointment was confirmed by Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority's executive committee at its meeting in Aylesbury last Wednesday.

It followed recommendations from a selection panel comprising elected members and Sir Ken Knight, who was until recently the Government's Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor.

Mr Jones will complete his five-year term in January 2015 and retire in February after a short hand-over period.

He was involved in controversy earlier this year over Fire Brigades Union strike action, which culminated in the sacking of firefighter and FBU member Ricky Matthews.

Mr Thelwell, 43, who lives in Milton Keynes, joined Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service in 2010 after 17 years with the Cheshire brigade.

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Jolly jumpers: Vanessa Holmes, *third from left*, with staff

Festive fashion will aid hospital charity

MILTON Keynes Hospital Charity is holding its first Christmas Jumper Day on Friday, December 12 with hospital staff donning festive fashion in exchange for a small donation.

Head of fundraising Vanessa Holmes said: "We'd love as many people as possible to take part. People can organise something with their work colleagues, family and friends or at school – the more the merrier!"

Text HOHO11 £1 to 70070 to join in.

£65k fine after worker injured

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

A GOLF shop has been fined after a female worker fell from a roof while rearranging mannequins.

Abbie Carter suffered 'life-changing' injuries when she tumbled eight feet from the changing room roof at American Golf, based in The Place Retail Park.

She damaged her wrist, foot, heels and ankles.

American Golf admitted one count of contravening health and safety regulations and was fined £65,000 at Aylesbury Crown Court last Wednesday.

Miss Carter, 24, had been working as a visual merchandiser at the company's shop for around two-and-a-half years.

She was rearranging mannequins on display above a changing room at about 4.30pm on May 5, 2013 when the accident happened.

Mitigating, Mark Watson said American Golf 'bitterly regretted' what happened. He said: "The company would wish it could turn the clock back but it cannot do so."

Mr Watson said changes had immediately been made to ensure a similar accident would never happen again, agreeing that the unsafe display should have been removed sooner.

As well as the fine, American Golf was ordered to pay costs of £6,115 and a £120 victim surcharge.

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World Cup pack is taking shape

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

THE success of the games-makers at the 2012 London Olympics is attracting more and more volunteers to join The Pack for next year's Rugby World Cup.

The Pack is the name given to the 6,000 volunteers needed across the country, with up to 300 required for the three Milton Keynes games taking place in October.

Around 700 people attended Try Outs at Bletchley Leisure Centre last week to earn their place among The Pack, including Roger Cook from Newport Pagnell.

"Having seen the Olympics I thought I would get involved," he said. "The volunteers are often the first people that a spectator will meet – they're very visible and an integral part of the venue. They are unbelievably important and the Olympics and Paralympics showed that."

MK Dons chairman Pete Winkelman was at last Wednesday's event. He said: "I'm proud of what Milton Keynes is showing and I think 2015 is going to be a year which we won't forget."

Welcome: Mary Cahill, Try Outs team manager, with volunteers

More tickets have gone on sale for Milton Keynes' three World Cup matches.

Priority has been given to people who were unsuccessful in getting tickets in September, with seats going on sale to the general public from midday on Friday.

Meanwhile, the amount of money Milton Keynes' visitor economy is expected to generate from the Rugby World Cup 2015 has been revised upwards to £52million, according to accountants Ernst & Young.

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Safe and sound: John Knibbs of Stantonbury with his tortoises Turbo and Freda, now safely back at home

Stolen tortoises go to s-hell and back!

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

THE 74-year-old owner of two tortoises will increase security at his home after they were returned.

John Knibbs, from Stantonbury, was 'elated' to have Turbo and Freda returned to him by a resident.

But as this was the second time his 40-year-old tortoises had been stolen he didn't dismiss it wouldn't happen again.

He said: "To stop it is almost impossible as it has happened before, but we will install different security lights and think of other measures."

As MK NEWS reported last week, the pets and alcohol were stolen from the house in Thane Court between 2am and 8am on November 10. The tortoises were returned on Thursday at about 7.30pm.

"I am elated," said Mr Knibbs. "It is like having a member of the family back and I didn't think I would see them ever again.

"When I examined them they were both in good order and hadn't been mistreated. The people who took them weren't kids and knew how to get in and when."

No arrests have been made and witnesses should call police on 101.

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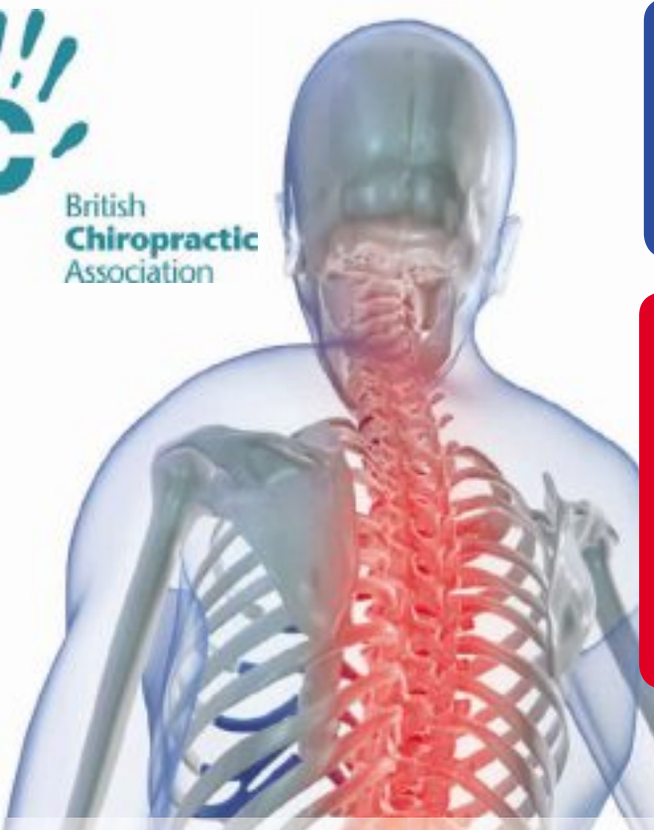

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Lasers and

Above: An ice fairy wows at Xscape
Below: Gulliver's Land mascots Gully and Gilly take part in intu's parade

Ho, Ho, Ho: Santa and a polar bear at Xscape and, *left*, Church of Christ the Cornerstone is lit up for Christmas

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lights at switch-on

Let there be light: The trees along Midsummer Boulevard have been lit up for the very first time

JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

MORE than 2,500 people attended the first Christmas lights switch-on in Central Milton Keynes on Saturday.

Santa and a polar bear helped turn on the lights at Xscape before the spectacle at the centre:mk was lit up.

Crowds then gathered outside intu Milton Keynes to watch a mascot parade, performances and the lights turned on in the trees along Midsummer Boulevard before a laser and fire display.

Lasers: The crowd enjoys the display by The Full Effect

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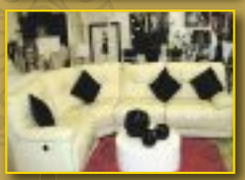
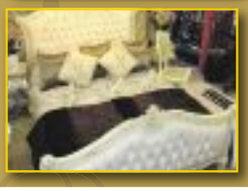

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Big night for Albert

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

A HORSE from the police's mounted section has been named as a finalist in a prestigious awards ceremony for his work during a 10-year career with the force.

Albert, who lives in Milton Keynes, is one of three finalists in the public sector category of this year's RSPCA and Daily Mirror Animal Hero Awards, which take place in London tonight.

The 17-year-old earned his nomination after excelling during operations as varied as policing violent English Defence League marches, football matches, anti-war, May Day and Gay Pride events, and during searches before Olympic Games rowing events. He has also worked to protect the Queen and other members of the Royal Family and VIP visitors to the UK.

PC Kevin Simmons from the mounted section said: "He's a really good horse. We're all ecstatic that he's been named as a finalist and it is a real honour to have one of the horses recognised for the work that they do for us. I think he will be getting extra carrots and apples if he wins.

"Albert is getting a bit older now. He's probably the next one to be retired, maybe in a year or two, but he will go to a good home when he does."

In the running: Albert works with Thames Valley Police

Police horses' protest drills

HORSES and officers from Thames Valley Police have been practicing dealing with protests and demonstrations.

Around 20 officers from across the force and three horses worked on crowd control and escorting groups at a training centre in Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. PC Kev Simmons said: "The horses carried out the exercises in a textbook fashion.

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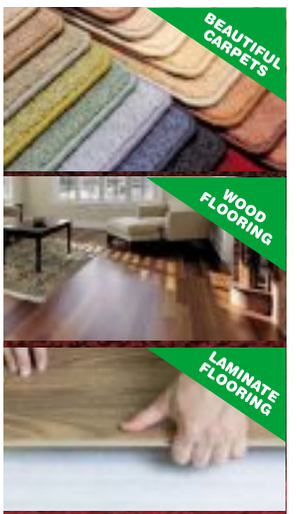

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Come back and see us, Dermot!

BY NISHA MAL
editor@mk-news.co.uk

X FACTOR star Dermot O'Leary could be hot-footing it back to Milton Keynes after a Twitter tit-for-tat with the city's tourist body.

The TV host was in town to promote his new book, The Soundtrack To My Life when he branded Milton Keynes the 'land of roundabouts' in a tweet he posted to his 2.4million followers.

The 41-year-old also referred to 'roundabout loving Keynesians' – prompting Destination MK to invite him to return and see 'there's more to MK than just roundabouts'.

Dermot was in the city last-Thursday at WH Smith in centre:mk where he met fans and signed autographs.

But he wasn't willing to give too much away about the hit Saturday night show, telling MK NEWS: "I couldn't possibly tell you who my favourite act is this series because they'll all ask why I didn't choose them when I see them in rehearsals.

Star-struck: MK NEWS' Nisha Mal with her hero, dishy Dermot

"It's extraordinary being on the X Factor," he added. "It's a rollercoaster, I love being the ringmaster in a weird dysfunctional circus."

Fans queued up outside WHSmith to catch of glimpse of the star.

Nathan Broughton from Fishermead said: "I've bought the book for my mum as a Christmas present and she'll love that he has signed it.

"I can't wait to see her face light up on Christmas morning when she unwraps it, she's a Dermot super fan."

Talking about what fans can expect from the book, Dermot said: "There's a lot about my childhood and the journey I went on to become a television presenter. I think people don't really realise how difficult it can be to get into the industry."

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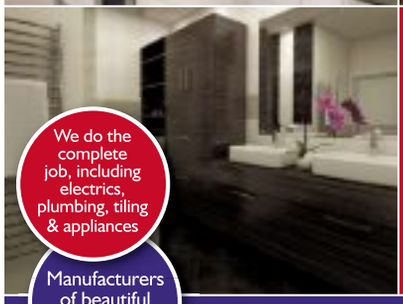

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On tour with Bailey:

BY NISHA MAL
editor@mk-news.co.uk

CAR chases, screaming girls and consistently being asked 'are you his girlfriend?'

This was my first glimpse into the world of celebrity and the pressures placed on the young shoulders of Bailey McConnell, or Barry as he prefers his college friends to call him.

I spent Saturday on tour with the Britain's Got Talent star in Blackpool and Darwin, where he performed at Christmas light switch-on events.

The 15-year-old singer-songwriter said: "A lot of my friends say I lead a double life. During the week I'm just a normal kid studying for my GCSEs and then at weekends I'm on stage in front of all these fans. It's mental but I love it. I enjoy being busy and if I didn't like it I wouldn't be doing it."

Bailey is wiser than his years but still has the charm of a child – on a number of occasions he asked me 'can I have this drink', or 'can I go over there?'.

We began our day at 9am at intu Milton Keynes, where Bailey signed autographs and handed out signed posters. Long car journeys and service station food lay ahead of us – not quite the glamorous life on the road his fans might imagine. The crowd was small, perhaps not the kind of audience One Direction would drum up, but he took it on the chin.

"Personally I wouldn't get up for anyone at 9am, so thank you to everyone that came to see me," he wrote on Instagram that day. Like many teens he is obsessed with social media but uses it to self-promote and update his fans.

Straight after the meet-and greet we hit the road to Blackpool. It was dark by the time we arrived but a crowd of teenage girls was already out in force. Our schedule was tight – we spent half-an-hour at a church in Blackpool, most of it trying to exit the venue.

His manager's Vauxhall Corsa was mobbed by teenage girls, blocking our route out, who were screaming 'Bailey' and hurling gifts and album covers at him.

Darwin, near Blackburn, just half-an-hour away, was the biggest gig of the day, Bailey spent the journey taking selfies and talking about PlayStation games.

Five acts, three teenage groups and another solo artist filled the greenroom – like a huge playground, where Bailey's manager and I sat in silence.

The gig was amazing. We got to see the lights switch-

Singing sensation: The teen was a hit with the girls in Blackpool

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Screams and selfies

Taking a selfie: Bailey takes his picture with members of the crowd who were in Blackpool

on and a even few fireworks. Afterwards a hoard of fans waited by the exit, insisting on seeing the now tired and agitated starlet.

'Do you know Michelle?', 'I know where you live, you have a brown door?', 'I added one of your friends on Snapchat' were just some of the questions thrown at Bailey. He joked: "I have no idea how but they know who my friends are and even get hold of my phone number and call me all hours of the day."

Lighting up Darwin: The singer takes to the stage at switch-on

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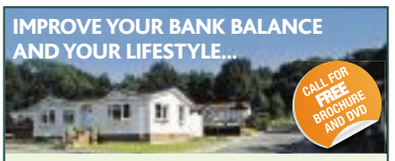

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MK LETTERS EXTRA

I HAVE just spent 45 minutes waiting for a parking space.

I used to drive round, but am clocking up more than three miles a day just driving round and round and round – it is literally driving me mad.

So my new tactic is to sit and wait. I find myself stalking walkers and anyone who looks like they are getting out keys! I have had one crash already after seeing a space that someone else had seen at the same time.

I am one of the lucky ones who works flexi-time so at least I can make the time up, but I have to say my home life is suffering as I am getting back later and later. I am truly not sure how long I can go on like this.

Why, oh why can we not park opposite Sainsbury's? There is a huge piece of land already surfaced that would alleviate the problem, why not just open the fence and put up huge signs saying 'park at your own risk'. Seems simple to me.

Jane Cooper
Sent via email

CONGRATULATIONS on your parking campaign.

I share in the frustrations of your readers but I wonder if the number of cars belonging to those who work in the city is now big enough to expose a planning error.

Those potential shoppers who have recently failed to find a parking place and have turned away having been unable to spend money in the shops will know the feeling.

Surely those who work in the city and arrive first in the day inadvertently keep customers out. Workers of all kinds are essential to our future so we are already on a slippery slope. The shopping centre's income will be lost and as a result jobs of all kinds will be lost.

Driving up parking fees will not be the answer.

If the present situation could have been forseen and planned for in the beginning, one answer would have been underground car parks at every site, similar to the excellent facility at Sainsbury's. Ideally every employer should accommodate both employees and customers in this way.

The solution needs to be readily available and must not be expensive to use.

For some employees the cost of parking is already prohibitive. Shop customers with only a single purchase in mind are already looking for other places to shop. It's not only the cost of a quick visit, it's also the time taken to find a parking space.

When Milton Keynes began, an exciting attraction was free parking and plenty of it. Today it seems we must pay to work or shop here.

Instead of holding them to ransome it's time to respect the workforce and seek to attract and welcome customers again. Of course it will not happen overnight but time is running out.

A start could be made by providing free park and ride for city employees. Next, it's time to provide underground parking beneath all new commercial buildings.

Practical steps are needed to solve a straightforward problem. The problem we have is solved in a similar way by less innovative cities all over the world, presumably by planning authorities who plan! It's time for MK to set an example again.

John Garrard
Sent via email

AFTER reading in your newspaper about all the parking problems in CMK, I have to say I feel so sorry for all these workers trying to find a parking space.

As they all say, it is getting

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more and more difficult to park every day and more spaces need to be available.

Why can't the empty ground near Sainsbury's have another multi-storey car park built on it? That would help many drivers who work around that area, but I guess that it is earmarked for yet another office block, shops and restaurants – don't we have enough already?

As for the premium bays standing empty, why can't these workers park in them when they have already paid their fees?

These workers need to earn a good wage if they are having to pay for their parking every week. It must be so disheartening for them.

The council needs to get it sorted sooner rather than later.

June Nicholson
Bradville

I REGUARLY read your paper each week and you write many thoughtful articles.I found your article about parking in CMK very interesting, thank you.

I have thought a great deal about parking and the traffic in rush hour.

I think there are many possible solutions, however, only a few will likely get adopted by Milton Keynes Council, mostly because of cost. I would like to share my thoughts with you.

The biggest thing I have noticed is that nearly every car driving in CMK seems to only have one passenger (the driver). Would more car sharing bays and encouragement to use them be worthwhile?

What about people who live within three miles of the city centre. Should there be encouragement for cycling and walking?

There are many high cost alternatives that are unlikely to happen, for example a six-storey car park or underground car parks.

I cycle from Newport Pagnell to CMK in work clothes at a gentle pace and still get there faster than in my car. It seems others who live closer than me could save time and hassle as well.

Perhaps a few small changes like these might make all the difference?

Mark Pawson
Sent via email

PARKING in MK for workers is a complete nightmare.

There are not enough standard rate bays so if I am running a bit late then I have to park miles away from where I work.

I work for Santander and have noticed that every few weeks I get pushed closer to Toys R Us. While it's only a short walk, it's most annoying that in order to build the new Morrisons they have removed more and more standard rate spaces and not replaced them at all.

This has forced station parkers to utilise the spaces I used to use.

Why can't the council convert more of the premium bays to standard bays, particularly around companies?

Margaret Holloway
Sent via email

FURTHER to your article on parking issues I wish to add my voice to those employees who work in Central Milton Keynes and experience issues with the lack of parking spaces on a daily basis

For those who have to negotiate the 'school run' and arrive in CMK shortly after 9am it's becoming a daily scramble to obtain a space anywhere, furthermore the situation seems to get worse every six months or so.

You may as well forget it if you need to leave work to attend an appointment and return that day.

With respect to the claims of the council that there are c.2,000 free spaces a day in CMK, surely it's not that difficult to actually survey parking space availability between 8.30am and 9.30am – even a brief tour of the car parks would reveal the chronic lack of spaces after 9am. Or, more scientifically graph the volumes of employees in CMK (growth trend) verses volume of parking spaces (flat).

Solutions – car shares and public transport will only go so far and the council must build a decent size multi-storey car park (eg on vacant land opposite Jaipur) or at the least erect the temporary two level car parks often found at stations.

Andrew Chaney
Sent via email

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Daisy sniffs sweet smell of success

BY JESSICA DUNCAN
jessica.duncan@mk-news.co.uk

DAISY the cancer detection dog has been awarded a medal that celebrates the achievements of amazing animals by pet charity Blue Cross.

The 10-year-old labrador, trained by Milton Keynes-based charity Medical Detection Dogs to sniff out cancer, was awarded the Blue Cross Medal for her pioneering work identifying more than 6,500 samples and detecting over 550 cases of cancer.

She uses her acute sense of smell to pick out chemicals given off in cancer cells in samples of a patient's breath, skin or urine. Daisy helped detect breast cancer in her owner in 2009.

Dr Claire Guest, Daisy's owner and chief executive of Medical Detection Dogs, said: "Daisy kept nuzzling and pawing at my chest one day, which really alarmed me. I got it checked out and was told I had early stage breast cancer.

"Fortunately I was able to have it removed but if it wasn't for Daisy it would have gone undetected for much longer and could have been more serious."

Steve Goody, Blue Cross' deputy chief executive, said: "The Blue Cross Medal is awarded to animals that have changed or saved someone's life.

"All the judges were really touched by Daisy's remarkable story and the incredible difference she has made.

"Daisy has made a huge contribution to the diagnosis and early treatment of cancers – she's a very deserving recipient"

Dr Guest added: "I am absolutely thrilled that Daisy has been awarded the Blue Cross Medal.

"It's a huge honour and I am so proud of her."

Wonder dog: Daisy has sniffed out more than 550 cases of cancer since 2009

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MK EDUCATION

Staying safe, staying seen

BY REBECCA SMITH
editor@mk-news.co.uk

HOUSING developers have teamed up with a primary school to help keep its pupils safe while walking home as the nights grow darker.

Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes donated hi-visibility armbands and bag-tags for the children at Broughton Fields Primary School, which is close to the homebuilders' Brooklands development in Fen Street.

The school's headteacher, Nick Hearn, said: "We believe walking to school is important and try to encourage as many of our pupils as possible to walk to school in a safe and sensible fashion.

"Initiatives like this help get the children excited about walking to school and we really appreciate the donations from Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes."

Best foot forward: Broughton Fields Primary School pupils with high-vis armbands and bag-tags

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Research by Living Streets shows less than half of children in the UK walk to school
- One in five cars in the morning rush hour is on the school run
- The school run is estimated to be responsible for more than two million tonnes of CO2 a year – more than the annual CO2 emissions of the Bahamas.
- People in cars can suffer three times as much pollution than those walking when they are sitting in a line of traffic.

WHY WALK?

- Health – walking improves circulation, burns calories and increases mental health and wellbeing
- Save money – On average, leaving the car behind on the school run will save you £400 per year
- Social – children who walk to school meet friends and develop greater independence and road sense

College's new way of learning

MK COLLEGE is offering a practical way for people to learn, giving students the option to choose one career and structure their optional subjects around it.

College principal Dr Julie Mills said: "This is a very exciting initiative. It offers students a wider range of career choices, or pathways, and allows them to select from a set of complementary A Level subjects.

"It's designed for students who want an alternative to secondary school education in dedicated and grown-up surroundings with a focus which is more about their future than simply amassing qualifications." The structure comes into place next year.

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HIGH FIVE

Protest over potential OU cuts

UNION members gathered at the city's Open University campus to protest against the possibility of 700 regional jobs being axed at the organisation.

According to the University and College Union (UCU), 676 staff members in teaching, secretarial and support roles could be at risk of losing their jobs.

However, a spokesman for the OU said:"It is quite wrong to suggest that 700 jobs are at risk at The Open University or that there are plans to close all our regional centres."

New gym plan for S.N.U.G.S

Jumping high: Eight-year-old Shannon Leonard-Wood, who has autistic spectrum disorder and ADHD and has come on leaps and bounds since joining S.N.U.G.S

A DISABILITY gym in Leadenhall is raising money for a new building after renting premises for 21 years.

Special Needs Unit Gymnasts (S.N.U.G.S), based in Rainbow Drive, works with disabled children.

Founder Harry Sharpe said: "We can only run sessions on Fridays and Saturdays because we rent a building from MK College and it's used on other days.

We have to install our equipment every week and then take it down. I want a gym of my own so we can open more regularly."

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Doors Open at 5:00 p.m. for Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Sir Herbert Leon Academy is an 11-19 Mixed Comprehensive in Bletchley with just under 700 learners and 120 dedicated teachers and support staff. Learners at the academy are supported to be highly ambitious and to develop a genuine enthusiasm for learning. The Academy boasts some wonderful learning facilities: a new library, a theatre/cinema and an abundance of ICT teaching technology available in every learning area. In addition to this,

Sir Herbert Leon Academy Sixth Form Open Evening is a chance to meet with teachers in all of the subjects we offer. There is also a presentation from the Head of Sixth Form and Principal about Sixth Form life. Our attendance and pastoral officer will be able to answer any questions about attendance policy, study support and bursary. It is the best opportunity to find out about all aspects of the Sixth Form.

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By Sam Potter

Advertising feature

Breakthrough relief for back pain and sciatica

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the UK with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Bedfordshire, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Atlas Wellness Centre – the office of low back pain and sciatica relief expert Peter Olsson.

Peter and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped over 3,000 patients find relief from their agonising back pain and sciatica.

According to Peter, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Bedfordshire, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique programme for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Jeff P. from Cambridge says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank god I called your number, I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

The spine therapy specialists at Atlas Wellness Centre, are opening more slots in their already busy schedule to help MK News readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 01234 340317.

Mention this article (CODE: MKN37SCID5) and Peter will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of £195 to just £37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Peter and his team now by calling 01234 340317, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just £37, the normal cost of such an exam is £195 so you will save £158!

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©LW

Forget law and order, the chase is on for Mr Smee

WATCH out, Bradley Walsh is back. Oh, no he isn't! Oh, yes he Jolly Roger well is!

Bradley is playing Mr Smee, Captain Hook's right-hand man in this year's Christmas show, so let mayhem commence.

Fellow cast members who have been conscientious enough to learn the script of Peter Pan might want to look away now. Bradley's reputation goes before him when it comes to panto. Anything can and most probably will, happen.

JUDY RILEY talked to the star of the hit series Law & Order and game show The Chase about his first taste of panto, his worst moment onstage in panto and what tricks he'll be up to in this panto.

Do you remember the first panto you saw?

The first panto I saw was at the Watford Palace Theatre. I can't remember what it was but it was either Aladdin or Cinderella.

Did you feel at the time 'I'd like to get up there and do that'?

Not necessarily. We sat up in what was then 'the gods' at the theatre and my mum used to let me have ice-cream. It was great! What really turned me on to the theatre was that for my 14th birthday my mum took me to the London Palladium to see Tommy Steele in Hans Christian Anderson and that was the thing that made me want to go into show business.

How did your family feel about it when you said you wanted to be an actor?

They were really supportive about it. They always said just go ahead and do your stuff, do the best you can and enjoy it.

On the ITV Quiz show, The Chasers are classic 'boo-hiss' baddies. If you were casting them in panto which dastardly villains would they be?

The beast would be the Giant in the Jack and the Beanstalk and Ann Hegarty would be the Wicked Queen.

The barrister, Sean Wallis, he would be the Henchman and Paul Sinna, I'd have him in a comedy villain role.

Having appeared in a Dr Who spin-off, Sarah Jane Adventures, do you fancy a part in Dr Who itself as a villain or maybe even as the Doctor?

No, not in particular. I'd like to play another villain in Dr. Who. I was OddBod the Clown and it was great, the ringmaster. So yeah, that would be great.

It's been a few years since you were last here but you've always said how much you enjoyed it, and that's why you've come back. But what was your worst moment on stage in panto?

Without a shadow of a doubt, it has to be when I was at the Theatre Royal Norwich many years ago.

Wayne Sleep was topping the bill and there were two other guys, Walker and Cadman, and one of them was dressed up as ET.

He was wearing a mask and it slipped and went out of sync so he couldn't see.

Anyway, he walked straight off the stage and fell onto the piano and smashed the end of it.

We had to stop the performance and get him up. It damaged the piano and he got taken to hospital. I have to say it was a very dangerous thing to do but looking back, it was really funny. It's true, he just couldn't see!

What's the best thing about appearing in panto and in Peter Pan in particular?

Peter Pan is great subject matter but what I'm really looking forward to is seeing David Bedella. He's got a brilliant reputation and apparently is a brilliant Hook.

But also, Flawless have a great reputation from last year and I love that stuff. Unification in dance. They've had rave reviews for their show so I can't wait to see them in action.

Will Bradley's dancing be Flawless?

BRADLEY Walsh will surprise the audience with his dancing capability in this year's panto Peter Pan.

Choreographer Sarah Dean is teaching the cast the steps to this year's dance routines and believes Bradley will not look out of place on stage with dance troop Flawless, who can be seen here rehearsing at The Chrysalis Theatre on Thursday.

The cast are entering their second week of rehearsals and Sarah is pleased with the stage the cast are at, adding: "We are pretty much getting it all together."

FOR A GALLERY OF PICTURES
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MKlife

your guide to leisure in your city

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** phone **01908 689595**

Feel the festive spirit at Dame Cleo's Christmas bonanza

Songs. Jokes. Surprises. Guests. Plus highlights from 40 Years of Christmas at The Stables.

Dame Cleo invites you to kick-off the festive season with her and her friends.

Red Riding Hood, John Dankworth's witty 1983 panto, will feature this year and the venue in Wavendon is delighted that its Good Fairy will be played by the talented Maureen Lipman.

There will also be the chance to see a screening of the late Sir John Dankworth's most compelling drama, The Gourmet's Ghoul.

Guests who will be performing include Jacqui Dankworth, Charlie Wood, Emily Dankworth, Martha Shrimpton, Sarah Watts, Chris Shrimpton, Lorna Dallas and Peter Fisher.

The band line-up will be John Horler, Alec Dankworth, Jim Hart, Sarah Watts, Alison Neale, Julian Siegel, Jimmy Hastings, Henry Lowther, Robbie Robson and Bill Geldard.

The event, on December 11 from 8pm, is expected to be a sell out.

Tickets cost between £29.50 and £32 and are available from the box office on 01908 280800.

The event will be supporting Wavendon All-music – a charity aiming to engage the widest range of people with music in all its diversity.

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When some people see the famous 'blue marble' photograph, taken by Apollo 17 astronauts in 1972, their first thought is of the marvels of human ingenuity and technology that made the series of Apollo moon landings possible. Others see it as a representation of the fragility of life on our planet. It has been used as a symbol by the environmental movement since it was published by NASA soon after the mission. What difference does it make if you see the planet in the photograph as part of creation? What difference does it make if we see each other that way?

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Tuesday 2 December, 8pm BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS
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festivefairs

CHRISTMAS fairs are taking place every weekend up until the big day.

On Saturday, there will be two events to get you in the festive spirit.

There wil be stalls, lots of family entertainment and a vist from Santa at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, from 10am-4pm, and at Shenley Brook End High School from 2.30pm-5pm.Admission to both fairs is free.

For more information on the Christmas fairs taking place around the city visit **www.mkweb.co.uk**.

leehurst

STAND-UP comedian Lee Hurst is travelling throughout Britain to find out what really winds people up and he will be arriving at The Stables on December 19.

Mostly people get on with living their lives, but everyone has at least one thing that pushes their buttons.

What's yours? go along for a night of laughter and letting off some steam.

The gig may contain strong language and adult material and is suitable for people aged 16 and above.

For tickets, which cost £17, go to http://purchase.tickets.com. The event begins at 8pm.

comingup

A DECREPIT corpse-ridden city, plagued by Zombies, ruled by the undead – no not MK on a Saturday night.

It's The Circus of Horrors, **left**, celebrating its 20th anniversary with a gyrating, flying, flaming visit to MK Theatre on Tuesday, January 13.

But that's just one of the 'treats' to look forward to in the New Year. From stripping in Sheffield to Walking Like a Man in New York, the stage adaptation of The Full Monty chuffs into town on January 19, followed swiftly by the fabulous Jersey Boys in early February.

greatdrinks

IF YOU are looking for somewhere to go for a drink this weekend, B-Town offers a great range of drinks and Indian street food, writes Jack Ash.

When I went down on Monday they showed me how to make the Kir Royale, Bombay Island Ice Tea, Cosmopolitan, Virgin Pina Colada and a Virgin Lychee Mojito and it was exciting watching how they made the drinks.

From the outside it comes across more as a restaurant than a bar, but B-Town offers something for everyone, ranging from a full curry to street food nibbles and a drink.

The large wooden bar offers an ideal place to sit with friends and enjoy your night before you move onto another bar or have something to eat.

MKlife

Competitions | Family Life | The Stables

GULLIVER'S is the place to be for fun-loving families this Christmas, with bags of excitement in store for everyone!

From November 29 until December 23, festive fun is all around at all three Gulliver's parks in Milton Keynes, Warrington and Matlock Bath.

There's so many yuletide treats for families – watch out for talking trees, naughty elves in Elf School and tasty treats in Mrs Christmas's kitchen.

Let Gulliver's transport you to a winter wonderland with a magical selection of Christmas rides, shows and attractions – plus there's a range of fantastic festive packages to choose from. To celebrate, we're giving away five Smasher packages. Each one allows four people to visit Gulliver's this Christmas and includes a visit to Santa's grotto with a present for every child, plus all the Christmas rides and attractions.

For more information, visit www.gulliversfun.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question:

Which of these places does NOT have a Gulliver's Land theme park?

A) Warrington
B) Matlock Bath
C) Milton Keynes
D) Cambridge

To enter log onto www.mkweb.co.uk/competitions Alternatively send your answer, name, address and daytime telephone number to MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU by noon on Wednesday, December 3. The editor's decision is final

hendo

WE ALL know what it's like to have to work alongside a bunch of lazy so-and-sos.

Stuff and Nonsense (what a great name!) are bringing the story of the hardworking Little Red Hen to The Stables this Christmas.

Life would be an awful lot easier for her if the other farmyard animals mucked in to help with making bread.

But no, they are all far too busy doing nothing.

This delightful adaptaptation of the nursery school favourite features a host of animal puppets, singalong songs, madcap comedy routines and no scary bits whatsoever!

There are matinee performances of the show every day from December 16-21. Visit stables.org or call the box office on 01908 280800 for more information and to book tickets.

christmaslights

THE annual Milton Keynes Theatre District's Christmas light switch-on takes place on Sunday.

From 4-7pm visitors can enjoy stalls and fairground rides and meet Father Christmas in his grotto.

Teen music sensation Bailey McConnell will switch on the lights alongside MK Dons manager Karl Robinson and his wife, actress and model Ann Marie Davies.

The trio are all patrons of the Henry Allen Trust, which is the chosen charity to benefit from this year's lights switch-on.

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MKlife

Night In | Columnists | MK Gallery

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beforebatman

I WAS expecting great things from Gotham, but it hasn't lived up to what I hoping, writes Scott Kirk.

There was a massive advertising campaign by Channel 5 and the early days of Bruce Wayne was something that I was really looking forward to.

But it's just not blown me away like I thought it would.

Jada Pinkett-Smith, Will Smith's wife and a star in The Matrix, is very wooden as Fish Mooney and the biggest disappointment for me, while the character of Wayne is largely irrelevant at the moment.

Benjamin McKenzie is good as Detective Gordon and there is bags of potential with Penguin, who is played excellently by Robin Taylor. But I think it needs a real sparkling episode for this series to really get going.

Gotham is on Channel 5 every Monday from 9pm.

AS THE cold weather starts to bite, JAMES FROST, chief executive at Frosts Garden Centre gives MK LIFE readers his top tips for making sure your plants are the pick of the bunch

PLANT hardy trees and shrubs if it's not frosty, to ensure they are established for next season.

Apple and pear trees can be pruned while dormant following basic rules – removing dead, damaged, diseased growth first, then remove branches that cross over each other causing bark to rub. The idea is to create an open, light centre.

Other plants to prune before January include maples, birches and vines to avoid the plants bleeding sap when they are cut.

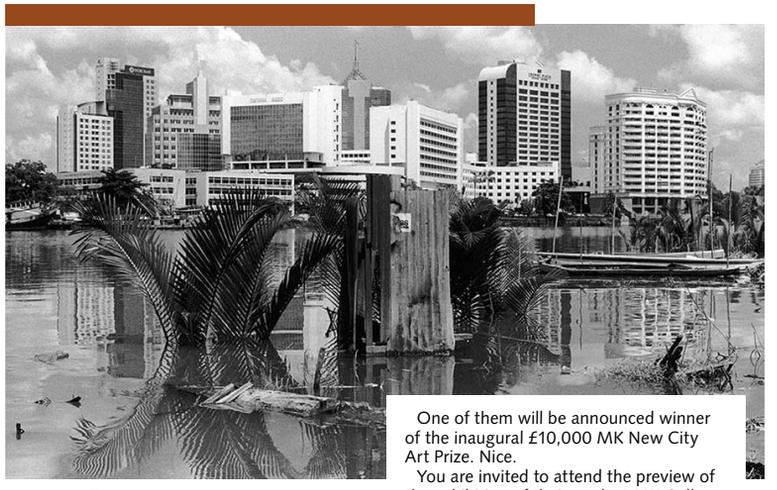
Harvesting leeks, winter greens, parsnips and the last of the root vegetables can also take place.

Indoors, or in the greenhouse, pot up hippeastrum (amaryllis) – regular watering and feeding will ensure flowers in the New Year.

Most houseplants now need hardly any water, but still require good light.

Seasonal plants for cool rooms are forced hyacinths, cyclamen and Christmas cacti.

Poinsettia must be kept warm and away from drafts and a top tip is don't buy your plant if they have been kept in cold location.



prizesurprise

ONE of these four artists is going to get an early Christmas present.

Either Beatrice Gibson, Siobhan Hapaska, Jimmy Merris, or Roger Palmer (whose photograph, Kuching: 2003-2014 is pictured) will wake up on the morning of December 5 to a very nice surprise.

One of them will be announced winner of the inaugural £10,000 MK New City Art Prize. Nice.

You are invited to attend the preview of the exhibition of their work at MK Gallery on Thursday, December 4 between 7pm and 10pm. All are welcome and, whether it coincides with the judges' choice or not, you can decide who you think deserves to win.

At 7pm on Thursday, December 11, Guardian newspaper art critic, Adrian Searle, will be In Conversation with the four artists. Admission is free but booking is essential. More details at mkgallery.org

Your essential guide to events big and small throughout Milton Keynes

MK life HOT PICKS

got an exciting event?
email editor@mk-news.co.uk
see our online gig guide
www.mkweb.co.uk

cockney rejects

COCKNEY Rejects will be bringing plenty of attitude to The Craufurd Arms.

The British rock 'n' roll band will bring their depth, magnitude and sheer turbulence to the Wolverton venue on Saturday from 7pm. The band were formed in the late 70s as an answer to the art school punk that had dominated the scene. Tickets cost £12 in advance at www.thecraufurdarms.com.

big bash

TO MARK the end of the year the Song Loft is holding its big seasonal bash.

The music venue in Stony Stratford will end 2014 with food, songs and fun from 8.15pm on Friday.

Entrance to the event is £2 on the door. The venue will reopen on January 9.

ladies night

DOBBIES Garden Centre is hosting its annual Ladies' Night on Thursday, with canapés, a glass on fizz and pamper sessions from 5-9pm.

There will also be demonstrations of this year's festive trends. Entrance is a £1, which will be donated to charity.

lantern love

WRAP up warm, take a torch and experience the luminaria lanterns at Woburn Abbey.

Be entranced by sculptures, a maze, animated fire sculptures and award-winning ice sculptors. Tickets cost £1 for adults and £4 for children for the event, taking place from 5-10pm on Saturday. See www.mkweb.co.uk for more details.

santa's helpers

CHILDREN can arrive as themselves but leave as an elf on Saturday.

the centre:mk's free Christmas kids' club means your little ones can make a selection of fun festive decorations and cards. They can also pose in elf hats!

The event will take place from 10am until 4pm at Middleton Hall in the shopping centre.

monopoly madness

ON SATURDAY the Milton Keynes Monopoly Championships will commence.

Players will decend on intu Milton Keynes – and shoppers wil be encouraged to get involved too.

They will throw the dice and at the end of the day whoever has accumulated the most money – including assets – will win a signed board.

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MKNEWS

PROPERTY NEWS

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Bradville

AN IMMACULATELY presented and spacious detached house set within a cul-de-sac location and fronting onto a green.

Bradville is situated within a short drive of Central Milton Keynes and the old town of Wolverton, both with mainline train stations.

Nearby is the Bradwell Windmill built in the early 1800s next to the Grand Union Canal, parkland, local schools and amenities.

The property briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs cloakroom, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, carport and enclosed rear garden.

The property has an EPC rating of C.

If you would like to view this house, on the market for £269,950, or would like further information, call Inspired Sales and Lettings on 01908 690700.

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Its all about the location. This five bedroom town house is situated in the very popular area of Tattenhoe, sought after schools are within walking distance as well as Tattenhoe Pavilion, a family friendly pub, Howe Park Woods, linear parkland and the Westcroft retail park.

Tattenhoe £298,000

Offered for sale with no above chain is this three storey detached house with flexible living. The property is an ideal family home with the spacious accommodation to include two cloakroom, two en-suites, balcony to lounge and gardens to the front and rear.

Ashland Offer In Excess £330,000

If you require space, then this is the property that offers just that. With five bedrooms, conservatory and a converted garage, your extra accommodation is provided. The property is situated on the east side of Milton Keynes and is in close proximity to sought after schools.

Wavendon Gate £334,995

- Ground Floor
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- En-Suite To Master
- Good Size Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Viewing Highly Recommended

Monkston £190,000

- Bungalow
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Garage
- No Above Chain

Eaglestone £169,995

- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazed

Bletchley £159,950

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- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Communal Garden
- Secure Gated Complex

Netherfield £70,000

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- Balcony
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- Panaromic Views

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Wavendon Gate £295,000

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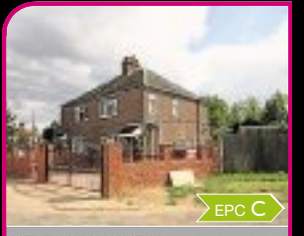
- Dining Area
- Family Bathroom
- Well Presented
- No Above Chain

Bletchley £219,995

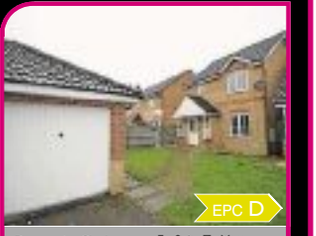


POTENTIAL BUILDING PLOT Subject to the relevant planning consents this three bedroom semi detached home offers the possibility of a building plot in the rear garden. Planning was formerly approved for a two storey side extension and detached double garage (double garage already completed).

Wolverton £240,000

- 70% Shared Ownership
- No Rent to Pay
- Sought After Location
- Beautifully Presented
- Built in 2006
- Ground floor
- Allocated Parking
- Patio Area

Broughton £90,000



- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master
- Bathroom
- Garage
- No Above Chain

Emerson Valley £250,000

- Mid Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Gardens
- Garage
- Internal Viewings Recommended
- FEES APPLY

Furzton pcm £850

- Top Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- Gated Allocated Parking
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Internal Viewings Recommended
- FEES APPLY

Broughton pcm £875

- Detached Home
- Four Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Cloakroom
- Garage
- Immaculate Presentation
- FEES APPLY

Oxley Park pcm £1,300

- Unique Four Bedroom
- Own Mooring
- Backs onto the Grand Union Canal
- Master With En-suite
- Double Garage
- Immaculate Presentation
- FEES APPLY

Fenny Stratford pcm £1,500

- Immaculate Cottage
- Sought After Village Location
- Grade II Listed
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- Gated Parking
- FEES APPLY

Winslow pcm £1,600

FREE VALUATIONS

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Sovereign Court, 215 Witan Gate, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HP
181 Queensway, Bletchley MK2 2DZ

Kingsfield Park

AYLESBURY | HP18 0PT

INFUSED WITH IMAGINATION

THE COLLECTION

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The computer generated illustration shows plots 468 & 469 in a mature setting and is for general guidance only. Interior photographs show a typical Martin Grant Homes show house. Prices correct at time of going to press. *Travel times from National Rail www.nationalrail.co.uk. All journey times are approximate.

The Collection is located on the northernmost part of the Berryfields development, with nature on your doorstep. Kingsfield Park offers 2, 3, 4 & 5 bedroom family homes in a range of sizes to appeal to everyone from first time buyers to established families.

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Prices From £244,950

SAT NAV REF: HP18 0PT

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General Vacancies

At Milton Keynes, we're supporting the growth of our vibrant city while continuing to deliver excellent services. It's an exciting place to be and we're keen to get the balance right - including the work-life balance. So if you're looking for family-friendly benefits and the chance to make a difference, make a move to MKC.

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Public Access Project Manager

£32,072 - £35,784 **Ref: 50020184**

Fixed term for 12 months

Focused on improving the experience of the Council's customers across all services, maintain all project materials and provide timely reporting to the Public Access Board. PRINCE2 qualified with a degree or equivalent, you will ideally bring experience of delivering an IT change project in both infrastructure and systems deployment.

For informal enquiries please contact Samantha Samuels on 01908 253959.

Purchasing & Procurement Officer

£17,980 - £19,327 **Ref: 50010811**

You will process payments for residential care and nursing homes, day care, supported living and direct payment care packages. As you will assist with the effective management and forecasting of budgets, you will need experience of working with software designed for Social Care and Contract Management Systems and an extensive knowledge of creating and maintaining complex Access databases.

For informal enquiries please contact Debbie Mason on 01908 253111.

Highway Permit Scheme Co-ordinator

£27,323 - £31,160 **Ref: 59001641**

A Market Supplement payment is currently being considered for this role.

You will ensure that all Highway Utility Permits are coordinated and managed accurately and efficiently to preserve the free flow of the highway network. Ready to embrace the training on offer, you will be educated at least GCSE level in English and mathematics with knowledge of the legal processes associated with our permit scheme.

For informal enquiries please contact Geraldine Pearson-Green on 01908 254724.

Highway Permit Scheme Streetworks Officer

£19,817 - £21,734 **Ref: 59001642**

A Market Supplement payment is currently being considered for this role.

You will support the Highway Permit Scheme Co-ordinators and the Streetworks team to deliver all aspects of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Traffic Management Act 2004. Full system and permit training will be available, particularly if you already have highways experience and proven financial management and stakeholder liaison skills.

For informal enquiries please contact Geraldine Pearson-Green on 01908 254724.

Traffic & Network Manager

£36,676 - £40,254 **Ref: 59001636**

A Market Supplement payment is currently being considered for this role.

We need an experienced highways manager with a programme or project management qualification to take the strategic lead in network management. You will act as a contact point for all issues relating to highway works while ensuring compliance with the New Road and Street Works Act 1991 and Traffic Management Act 2004.

For informal enquiries please contact Geraldine Pearson-Green on 01908 254724.

Closing date: 14th December 2014.

Salaries will normally start at the first point of the grade.

To apply online visit: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/jobs-careers For an application form, email: jobs@milton-keynes.gov.uk Please quote appropriate reference. We are unable to accept CVs, unless accompanied by a completed application form.

It's ability, not disability that counts

General Vacancies

Central Bedfordshire Council

Central Bedfordshire

● ROLES WITHIN THE ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY TEAM

If it's time for a new challenge in your career, come to Central Bedfordshire and join the highly regarded Community Adult Learning Disability Team.

We are a progressive and dynamic integrated team of Registered Social Workers, Community Learning Disability Nurses, Independent Lifestyle Officers and Team Administrators working to provide a quality service to adults who have a learning disability. We are committed to the principles of Valuing People and to promoting independence, citizenship, and inclusion and improving peoples' lives through choice and control.

In response to the developments within our services, we have a range of opportunities available.

We value our staff as individuals and welcome initiative and fresh thinking. With the relevant qualifications and experience in Social Work or Nursing we will support you to achieve a high level of professional practice through working with other committed professionals, regular supervision, learning and development opportunities.

We have a range of roles also available for people who have experience working within Health and Social Care.

Confident in working in a multidisciplinary, multi-agency team, you will have the ability to liaise and negotiate effectively with members of the public and other agencies to promote the needs of and safeguard people with learning disabilities. You will be skilled in assessment, report writing, and problem solving, with strengths in your quality of recording and IT skills.

Central Bedfordshire has reviewed its salary structure to ensure we are competitive with our comparator groups in the region.

Posts available include:

● SENIOR PRACTITIONER (SOCIAL WORKER/NURSE QUALIFIED) **(Job Ref 4883)**
37 hours a week
£30,536 - £33,317 + Market Rate Supplement per annum

● CARE MANAGER POSTS (SOCIAL WORKER/NURSE QUALIFIED) **(Job Ref 4884)**
37 hours a week
Level 1 – £25,212 - £27,564 + Market Rate Supplement per annum
Level 2 – £28,343 – 29,704 + Market Rate Supplement per annum

● CARERS SUPPORT OFFICER **(Job Ref 4885)**
37 hours a week
£19,817 - £21,734 per annum

● INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLES OFFICER **(Job Ref 4886)**
18.5 hours a week
£19,817 - £21,734 per annum

For an informal discussion please contact: Tessa Feneley, Tanya Unitt-Jones or Sarah Cavill on 0300 300 8100 or email them at the following addresses:

Tessa Feneley - tessa.feneley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Sarah Cavill - sarah.cavill@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Tanya Unitt-Jones - tanya.unitt-jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

To apply, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs

Closing Date: 4th January 2015
Interview Date: Week Commencing 26th January 2015

Want to find out more about jobs and careers within Central Bedfordshire Council?

Follow us on Twitter @CBCouncil_jobs or visit our website

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

Positive About Disabled People

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to equal opportunities.

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Business Support Assistant (Leisure Services)

£15,000 - £18,000 **Ref: 59001636**

Take this varied role and you will input data and provide reports using databases and spreadsheets. You will assist with co-ordinating schemes including leisure cards and the Community Group Registration Scheme. Sound administrative experience, good attention to detail and a flair for communication will be essential.

Closing date for all posts: 14th December 2014.

To apply online visit www.mksp.org.uk

Please quote appropriate reference

Partnership No: OC380848
Registered address: Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ

Apex Care Homes

Apex Care Homes are looking for:-

ACCOUNTS MANAGER – HEAD OFFICE BEDFORD

(FULL TIME)

Candidate must have experience and ability in finalising company accounts from data entry stage to preparing management accounts and final accounts for audit. Knowledge of Exchequer Accounting and IRIS Payroll software is preferable and ability to assist with managing staff.

For detailed job description and to apply please send CV to the General Manager **andrea@apexcare.co.uk** or contact her on **01234 266933.**

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications

Closing Date: Monday 8th December

www.apexcare.co.uk

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Newly qualified Drivers will be considered and there will be lots of opportunities to work extra hours.

For an application form or to submit your CV please email Steve Adams: sadams@mortimers.co.uk

The Sunday Times Top Track 250 2013

HMC BOARDING
AND DAY
1100 Boys; 7-18 Years

BEDFORD SCHOOL

DIRECTOR OF CRICKET

An outstanding candidate is required for April 2015 (or sooner) to direct cricket coaching and player development at all levels throughout the school. It is expected that the successful candidate will have coached and/or played cricket to a very high standard.

The role would suit an individual who would combine all Cricket and other Sports Coaching duties with a reduced academic timetable. The School has its own salary scale and help with accommodation may be available.

The School has a very strong cricket tradition, motivated boys, excellent facilities and equipment, a dedicated coaching team and an ambition to succeed at the highest level.

A copy of the job description and an application form is available to download from the School's website. Applications should be returned to
Sarah Lapidge, Bedford School,
De Parys Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TU
tel. 01234 362214 fax. 01234 362283
email. slapidge@bedfordschool.org.uk
www.bedfordschool.org.uk

The Harpur Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check, references and other checks.

Bedford School is part of the Harpur Trust

Closing Date
Tuesday 2nd December 2014 (Midday)

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

Interview Date
Friday 12th December 2014

DIAL HOUSE
Dial House Care Ltd

DIAL HOUSE CARE LTD

We are currently seeking the following staff;

Nursing Home Staff Nurse RGN

Part time or Full time for day and night shifts.

The successful candidate will preferably have previous experience with care of the elderly.

Contact, Susan Yates the Manager on 01234 356555 during office hours or email susan.yates@dialhousecare.com ©LW

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AutoCAD Technician

Required to join our busy design office in Wootton, Bedfordshire.

Must have experience in Aluminium or Composite Windows Systems and Curtain Walling and be able to work independently on small to medium size Commercial Glazing Contracts.

Negotiable salary depending on experience.

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Sir Herbert Leon Academy

Fern Grove,
Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK2 3HQ
Telephone: 01908 624720 Web: www.shlacademy.org

Music Teacher

Milton Keynes

Part Time
(approx. 0.6 fte)

Start date: January 2015

Salary: MPS/ Unqualified Teacher Scale depending on qualifications

Closing date: 10th December 2014, noon

We reserve the right to close this vacancy should we receive an overwhelming response.

If you have not heard from us within two weeks of the closing date, please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

Music graduates without Qualified Teacher Status are invited to apply.

We are seeking an exceptional Music Teacher who will be able to take up this part time role in January 2015. The post is open to both qualified teachers and music graduates. In either case, you should have excellent knowledge of the subject and be highly motivated with a vision to inspire students to enjoy music both in and out of the classroom.

You will:
- Have a relevant degree.
- Demonstrate an aptitude and enthusiasm for a career in teaching music.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please visit www.shlacademy.org/vacancies for further details and to download an application form.

Please refer to the job description and person specification before making application.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 15th December 2014.

Sir Herbert Leon Academy offers exceptional professional development opportunities through a direct partnership with The Duston School, Northampton (Ofsted rated outstanding, November 2013), which has Teaching School status.

A Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate will be required for this post.

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www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Public Information Officer

£26,539 - £28,922 per annum pro rata
Fixed term contract for 18 months
Full-time, 37 hours per week

Vacancy ID: 102144

The post-holder will be the housing & community living (HCL) directorate's lead communications and web officer. You will be managing the intranet and internet content ensuring the coherence of the web offer in the eyes of our customers and promoting channel shift to online as well as supporting and challenging heads of service and other senior managers to optimise the use of communications campaigns and the web to support business delivery.

You'll have experience of developing strategies, managing projects and achieving demanding targets/objectives and experience of communication and marketing activities to an external and internal audience. In addition, you'll also have experience of the operation and development of large scale internet and intranet sites & experience of operating to tight deadlines in highly pressurised environments. You'll have knowledge of best practice in communications including communications technology, marketing and PR.

Closing date: 7 December 2014

Apply now online at www.luton.gov.uk/jobs if you experience problems applying online, please call (01582) 546621 during office hours.

Please quote appropriate reference number.

Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.jobsnow.co.uk

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Heating Engineer/Plumbing Engineering

Gas registered Heating Engineer with strong plumbing background required for permanent role in reactive maintenance company.

The company covers a large area maintaining pubs, leisure complexes and housing associations.

Would also be required to carry out general plumbing works as well as installing and maintaining boilers.

Call 01234 306455

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ICKNIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Birdsfoot Lane, Luton LU3 2JB

Early Years Foundation Stage Assistant / HLTA

£7,440 - £8,430 p.a.
13 hours per week, term-time plus 5 training days

Vacancy ID:102186

Immediate start possible

2 days 13 hours per week (Thursday & Friday)

An opportunity has arisen for a Teaching Assistant (L6) within the Early Years Foundation Stage provision of our popular, well-resourced and forward thinking school.

NNEB or BTEC or NVQ3/4 in childcare (or equivalent) is essential for this role.

You will be able to:
- support the Classteacher in all aspects of teaching
- enhance learning opportunities for pupils
- demonstrate a professional knowledge and understanding of child development and pupils' individual needs
- contribute to the monitoring, recording and assessment of pupil progress
- work as part of a team, supporting the ethos, aims and vision of the school
- demonstrate a high commitment towards inclusive teaching and learning
- contribute to the care, health and welfare of pupils.

We are committed to:
- inclusive practices
- the achievement of high standards
- the professional development of all staff
- working in close partnership with staff, pupils and the local community.

If you are committed to raising pupil achievement we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this role, visit www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date: 1 December 2014 at 12noon
Interview date: w/c 8 December 2014

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Pastures Way, Luton LU4 0PE

KS1 Class Teacher

MPS / UPS
Maternity Cover for 1 year

Vacancy ID: 102185

Required from 26th January 2015 for approximately 1 year (covering maternity leave).

You should be:
- an excellent classroom practitioner
- able to motivate and inspire children, offering challenge and enjoyment
- work well as part of the team
- able to display high expectations of pupil attainment and behaviour.

We can offer:
- a supportive Leadership team and a friendly environment
- well behaved children
- enthusiastic teaching assistants who provide high quality support.

To apply for this role, visit www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date: 23 November 2014
Interview date: 8 December 2014

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

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St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust

Tyne Crescent, Bedford MK41 7UL
Tel: 01234 400222

Ofsted Outstanding 2008-2011
Ofsted Outstanding 2008-2011

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Circa £40k/Full time

St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust provides all through outstanding Catholic education. We are four schools St John Rigby Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Lower School, St Gregory's Catholic Middle School and St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School.

We are seeking a dynamic, highly motivated Accountant to lead our newly formed centralised Finance team. The person will hold a professional finance or finance related qualification at graduate level (ACA, ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA) or equivalent coupled with evidence of strategic financial planning.

In return, we offer the opportunity to lead a newly formed team, in purpose-built accommodation to develop financial services across our schools and beyond. You will be able to shape the role as the service grows. Initially, the post is full time. However, this and the salary are negotiable for the right candidate.

To have an informal discussion about this exciting opportunity please contact Dr Alan Lee, Executive Principal via email alee@stm.beds.sch.uk or telephone 01234 400222. For an application pack please email Karen Sallows, Personnel Manager hr@stm.beds.sch.uk

Closing date for applications is: Friday, 28 November 2014

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

'One Body In Christ'

Appointment of Council Manager

Salary SCP 43-47 (£37,483-£41,140)

Woughton Community Council is a large Parish Council in the heart of Milton Keynes, seeking to recruit a Council Manager

The successful applicant will hold, or be willing to undertake training for, the Certificate in Local Council Administration or other recognised qualification in local government administration. Have a desire to work in a challenging area, an understanding of the need for community capacity building and working in partnership with elected members and other organisations, and an appreciation of the needs of deprived areas. Be an excellent team leader, with the ability and determination to show both strategic leadership and a willingness to participate in a wide variety of operational matters.

You will act as the chief advisor to the Council, and will ensure the smooth running of an exciting innovative Council at the very forefront of the urban parishing movement.

For an informal conversation please telephone either the Council Leader **Kevin Wilson on 07702 114259** or the current postholder **Tracy Peters on 01908 395681**.
To request an application pack please contact **01908 395681** or email **tracy.peters@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk**

Closing date: Friday 11th December 2014
Interview date: Thursday 18th December 2014

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www.jobsnow.co.uk

The Walnuts School

Admiral Drive, Hazeley,
Milton Keynes MK8 0PU
Telephone: 01908 563885
Fax: 01908 555617
Headteacher: Nick Jackman

The Walnuts School is an all age (4 – 19) residential special school, for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders.

Speech & Language Therapist

Salary: Equivalent to NHS Band 6 – Subject to Job Evaluation
37 hours per week, term time only

We currently require an experienced Speech & Language Therapist to join our existing team of Therapists. Experience of working with children and young people with Autism is essential. Knowledge of PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and other therapeutic approaches is desirable.

For further details, an application pack or to arrange a visit, please contact the school on 01908 563885 or email admin@walnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Closing date: Friday, 5th December 2014.
Interview date: Friday, 12th December 2014.

This post requires an enhanced DBS check (previously CRB). This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Healthy Schools

HMC BOARDING
AND DAY
715 Boys; 300 Sixth Form

BEDFORD SCHOOL

HEAD OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

An experienced, dynamic and well-qualified teacher is required for September 2015 to join a highly successful department offering Sixth Form teaching (AS, A2 and IB courses).

A willingness to take an active part in the wider life of a busy boarding and day School is essential.

The School has its own salary scale which is well above the national scale and there is generous fee remission for children of teaching staff of the Harpur Trust Schools in Bedford.

A copy of the job description and an application form is available to download from the School's website. Applications should be returned to **Sarah Lapidge, Bedford School, De Parys Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TU** and will be dealt with as soon as they are received.

www.bedfordschool.org.uk

The Harpur Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check, references and other checks.

Bedford School is part of the Harpur Trust

Closing Date
Monday 1st December 2014 (Midday)

Interview Date
Wednesday 3rd December 2014

HMC BOARDING
AND DAY
715 Boys; 300 Sixth Form

BEDFORD SCHOOL

FRENCH TEACHER

(Full-time maternity cover)

An enthusiastic and well-qualified graduate is required from 2nd March 2015 for maternity cover until the end of June 2015 in a highly successful department offering French from Years 9 - 13, including IGCSE, AS, A2 and IB courses.

A willingness to take an active part in the wider life of a busy boarding and day School would be advantageous, as would the ability to teach Spanish.

The School has its own salary scale which is well above the national scale.

A copy of the job description and an application form is available to download from the School's website. Applications should be returned to **Sarah Lapidge, Bedford School, De Parys Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TU**

www.bedfordschool.org.uk

The Harpur Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check, references and other checks.

Bedford School is part of the Harpur Trust

Closing Date
Monday 1st December 2014 (Midday)

Interview Date
Tuesday 9th December 2014

Harlington Upper School

Harlington, Beds

Harlington is a highly successful, Upper School and Academy. We have around 1400 students and consistently achieve outstanding exam results.

- **Teacher of English (full or part time)**
- **Teacher of Maths (full or part time)**

Closing date for the above posts:
12 noon Monday 5 January 2015

- **Teaching Assistant**
- **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Assistant**

Closing date for the above posts:
12 noon Thursday 4 December 2014

Details of these posts and online applications forms available at www.harlington.org

Early applications for all vacancies would be welcomed

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment. A DBS disclosure is required for these posts.

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MK15 0DU.

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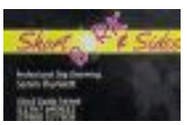

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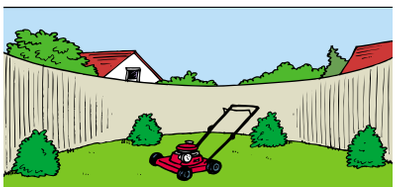

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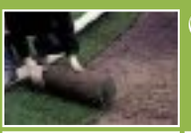

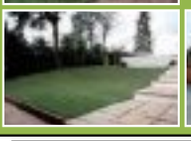

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES) (VARIOUS ROADS, HANSLOPE) (RESTRICTED ROAD) ORDER 2011) VARIATION ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes proposes to make two Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The proposed Orders will affect all classes of vehicles.

The effect of the proposed Order will be to increase the 30mph speed limit along Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope from 510 metres to 613 metres as follows:-

No vehicles, except for emergency services and military vehicles on operational duties shall be permitted to exceed the temporary speed restriction of 30 mph along the following length of road:-

- Castlethopre Road, Hanslope (both sides of the carriageway), from a point 148 metres south-west of its junction with St James Close for a distance of 661 metres in a south-westerly direction

A copy of the proposed Orders together with maps showing the areas referred to along with a statement of reason for proposing the Orders, may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes.

Any objections to the proposals, together with the grounds on which they are made, must be **made in writing** and sent to the undersigned **to be received** no later than 17th December 2014 quoting reference PH-S1-TRO-104

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (THE REAR ACCESS ROAD OF WESTERN ROAD PART), WOLVERTON) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 25th November 2014 made an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit vehicles from entering, waiting or proceeding along that part of the rear access road of Western Road, Wolverton from its junction with Woburn Avenue Woburn Avenue to its junction with the access road at the rear access road of Windsor Street (that links Western Road and Furze Way) in order to allow safe access to the water mains whilst essential repair works are carried out to a burst water main. It is anticipated that the temporary closure will be in effect from 00:01am on 1st December 2014 until 23:59pm on 3rd December 2014.

Whilst the above length of road is closed, the alternative route will be via Woburn Avenue, Western Road and the rear access road of Windsor Street (that links Western Road and Furze Way), and vice versa.

There will be no exemptions from the provisions of the Order except for emergency services vehicles and military vehicles being driven on operational duties.

The closure will be clearly signed in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

The temporary closure will be in force on the date shown when indicated by the appropriate traffic signs displayed in the affected part of road.

The Order will come into operation on 1st December 2014 and will continue in force for a maximum period of 1 month or until the said works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. If the works are not completed within the maximum period stated, a further order may be made.

Any person committing a breach of the order will be liable upon prosecution to such fine as is prescribed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The road closure and diversion routes can be viewed at www.roadworks.org.

26 November 2014

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Milton Keynes

Rachael Kingsley
Head of Highways

ALTERATIONS TO TRAFFIC FLOW AND WAITING, PARKING AND SPEED RESTRICTION IN PARTS OF WOLVERTON ROAD NEAR WOLVERTON RAILWAY STATION, MILTON KEYNES 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has, on the 24th November 2014, made 3 Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Orders, the titles of which are listed below, will affect all classes of vehicle and will have the following effects :-

To introduce on a permanent basis a one way traffic flow system by prohibiting all vehicles from proceeding along that part of Wolverton Road, Wolverton from its junction with Stratford Road and Newport Road at the mini roundabout adjacent to Wolverton Station to its junction with Old Wolverton Road at Haversham Roundabout, Wolverton other than in a north-westerly direction.

To introduce on a permanent basis a 30mph speed limit restriction along that part of Wolverton Road, Wolverton from its junction with Stratford Road and Newport Road at the mini roundabout adjacent to Wolverton Station to its junction with Old Wolverton Road at Haversham Roundabout, Wolverton

The introduction of No Waiting at Any Time restrictions along various lengths of Wolverton Road, Wolverton from its junction with the entrance to Wolverton Train Station to its junction with Old Wolverton Road at Haversham Roundabout

The introduction of on-street pay and display and pay by mobile phone parking places between the hours of 05.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, inclusive, along some lengths of the north eastern kerbline of Wolverton Road, Wolverton from its junction with Newport Road at the mini roundabout adjacent to Wolverton Station to its junction with the V6 Grafton Street at Haversham Roundabout, Wolverton.

The charges for parking will be £6.00 per daily stay if parking between the hours of 5.00am and 9.15am Monday to Friday and £2.00 per daily stay if parking from 9.15am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Parking will be free of charge between 5.00pm and 5.00am Monday to Friday, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays.

The Orders will take effect from the 1st December 2014

Exemptions from the Orders include emergency service vehicles, military vehicles on operational duties, statutory undertakers, building, demolition and excavation, disabled persons badge holders, and some others.

Copies of the Orders as made, together with maps showing the areas referred to may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, Wolverton Library, Town Hall, Creed Street, Wolverton and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes. Please quote reference WL-P&E-9349-TRO-2369.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any provision contained in the Orders on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the Act or any Instrument made under the Act has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Orders were made, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

26th November 2014

Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes

Sharon Bridglalsingh
Head of Legal Services - Planning Procurement & Property

Order Titles

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (WOLVERTON ROAD (PART), WOLVERTON) (ONE-WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (WOLVERTON ROAD (PART), WOLVERTON) (RESTRICTED ROAD) ORDER 2014

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES (WOLVERTON ROAD (PART), WOLVERTON) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND PAY AND DISPLAY AND PAY BY MOBILE PHONE PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2014

Milton Keynes Council

The following applications may be inspected at the Planning, Economy and Development Department, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes. Representations, if any, to be submitted in writing to the above address within 21 days of the publication of this notice.

SECTION 73 WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA

14/02401/TCA	Notification of intention to fell 1x Hawthorne tree (T1) at 24 High Street, Olney
14/02532/TCA	Notification of intention to carry out remedial works on 15 trees at The Old Rectory, 61 High Street, Stoke Goldington
14/02561/FUL	Single storey rear extension at The Croft, Clifton Road, Newton Blossomville

SECTION 67 & 73 AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA

14/02596/TCA	Notification of intention to crown reduce 1x Willow (T1) to below overhead telephone wire and partially crown reduce 1x Silver Birch (T2) at 11 High Street, Lavendon

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (AS AMENDED) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES) ORDER 2010 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 MAJOR

14/02383/REM	Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 05/00291 MKCOD3 for erection of 121 residential dwellings with garages, roads, sewers and all ancillary works at Western Expansion Area 10-1 - 10-3, Watling Street H3 To H4, Milton Keynes
14/02391/FUL	Development of light commercial vehicle rental depot (retrospective) at Site of Former Compounds Section Ltd, Dawson Road, Bletchley
14/02392/FUL	Erection of 1 x non-food retail unit (Class A1) and associated works including revised car parking layout at The Place Retail Park, Elder Gate, Central Milton Keynes
14/02470/FUL	Refurbishment and extension of MK Gallery including: an extension of 1808 sqm of D1 space (Non-Residential Institutions: Art Galleries) incorporating ancillary D2 (Assembly and Leisure: Cinema), A1 (Shops), A3 (Restaurants and Cafes) and A4 (Drinking Establishments) uses; refurbishment and alterations to the facade of the existing building; alterations to the existing landscaping, including the creation of a new cafe terrace and new access at MK Gallery, 3 Theatre Walk, Central Milton Keynes

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

An appeal has been lodged by Frosts Family LLP against refusal of the planning application 14/00703/OUT for residential development for up to 53 homes together with open space, strategic landscaping, supporting infrastructure (including gas, electricity, water, sewerage, telecommunications), new vehicle and pedestrian/cycle access onto Newport Road, demolition and ground re-modelling (outline application) at Frosts Landscape Construction, Newport Road, Wavendon.

It has been decided that this appeal will be dealt with on the basis of a public enquiry, which you may attend, and at the inspector's discretion, give your views. The hearing will be held **at The Summerlin Centre, Summerlin Drive, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK17 8GP commencing at 10.00am on Tuesday 9 December 2014.**

For further details please contact Planning Enquiries, Development Control, Milton Keynes Council, Tel: 01908 252358.

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Model: YARIS
Power: 90
Type: Standard Car
Seats: 5
Doors: 5
Drive Side: Right-hand drive
Colour: Silver
Previous Owners: 1
Metallic Paint: Yes
Safety Features: Anti-Lock Brakes (ABS), Driver Airbag, Immobiliser, Passenger Airbag, Rear seat belts, Safety Belt Pretensioners, Side Airbags
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BADMINTON

Hong Kong bid ends in semis

CHRIS and Gabby Adcock's defence of their Hong Kong Open Superseries crown came to an end in comprehensive fashion at the hands of old foes and world number one pair Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei in the semi-finals.

The Chinese top seeds came into the last four with a 6-1 head-to-head record over the Adcocks, the world number five pair, with the English duo's only win coming at this stage last year en-route to winning their maiden Superseries title.

Three of those previous seven meetings had been tight affairs played out in three games, but it took Zhang and Zhao just 33 minutes to exact revenge for last year's defeat against the city based pair, winning 21-12, 21-10 in a match they dominated throughout.

The reigning world and Olympic champions were never behind in the opening game and showed their class, opening up with six consecutive winners.

It was a margin that was maintained to the turnaround at 11-5 and then widened at 15-6. A further unbroken burst secured game point.

The second game started with an exchange of points in the early stages but any signs of an Adcocks fightback were dampened as the top seeds opened up a five point gap to 11-6.

It was a margin that the English pair never showed signs of closing down, winning just four points after the turnaround as their rivals took control.

Chris said: "We couldn't quite bring the form we have been playing at, which is disappointing.

"In saying that the Chinese didn't give us anything and came out strong from the get-go.

"There is lots we can learn from but also from the great week we have had.

"Although we ended on a disappointing loss we can take pride in our overall performance this week and look forward to the Superseries finals in Dubai next month."

Head Coach Jakob Hoi said: "It has been an interesting week. Chris and Gabby have played some really good badminton.

"We are disappointed but a semi final proves the level they have."

The Superseries Finals feature the world's top eight mixed doubles pairings.

CYCLO-CROSS

Park gears up for World Cup

BRITISH stars will be out to show they have what it takes to fight off the best of Europe and the world when the Cyclo-Cross World Cup comes to Campbell Park on Saturday.

Milton Keynes will become the first host of the series from outside mainland Europe with the cream of the sport due for both men's and women's races.

Belgium's Sven Nys (Crelan-AA Drink), a double world champion, tops the men's entry list while in the women's race it will be another Belgian, Sanne Cant, leading the way.

Twenty-four-year-old Cant (Enertherm-BKCP) has proved to be the star of the 2014/15 winter season having already picked up five winners' bouquets – including a win at last week's second round of the World Cup – but Great Britain are the top ranked women's team in cyclo-cross and will be out to impress through Helen Wyman (Kona Factory Team) and Nikki Harris (Telenet-Fidea).

In the men's race British national champion Ian Field (Hargroves Cycles – Ridley RT) will be a home favourite to watch.

"We're the top female nation in cyclo-cross and so for us to be competing on our home soil will be a great experience," said Wyman. "It [Campbell Park] is a tough course and I like wearing courses.

"There are lots of challenges and that suits me. If it rains from now on that would be really good for me."

In designing the course for the Campbell Park race, organiser Simon Burney has put in many of the features that make a classic cyclo-cross circuit.

"It's a British style of venue," he said. "But it'll probably be a little harder physically than a regular British National Trophy event.

"It's also very spectator friendly with more than 80 per cent of the course visible from the top of the Jubilee Beacon.

"Our course will be hard, physical and not too super technical although a bit of that will depend on the weather.

"We're putting in a set of hurdles – watching riders bunny-hop such obstacles is typical of any top cyclo-cross race – to get the riders to dismount before they climb up the hill."

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Leveller: Danny Green celebrates with Darren Potter

Just in time: Danny Green watches his late equaliser go in

Ferrari bound Vettel speaks of 'incredible' Red Bull spell

FORMULA ONE

SEBASTIAN Vettel says he never expected to win four World Championships at Red Bull Racing.

The German drove his last race for the Milton Keynes based outfit at the season closer in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, and afterwards he reflected on a great six years at the team.

"I think the last six years have been an incredible journey," he said. "Obviously we didn't expect that [what was achieved] when we started working together – you can never expect four driver titles and four constructors' championships in a row.

"You get to know some people in a very good way and build friendships that will last a long time.

"You go through happy days and sad days, you go through them together and I think I learned a lot. I'd like to thank Red Bull and the team for everything they did and I will miss them. I feel ready for the next step."

Vettel announced that he would be leaving Red Bull last month and it was confirmed last week that he will be joining Ferrari for the 2015 season.

Red Bull, who have seen their four year grip on both the drivers' and constructors' titles end this year after a season of Mercedes dominance, will be represented by Daniel Ricciardo and Daniil Kvyat next term as they bid to return to the top of the sport.

Ricciardo finished fourth in Abu Dhabi while Vettel came home ninth, with both drivers having to start from the pit lane after their front wings were ruled to be illegal.

Red Bull claimed that they had been 'singled out' by the governing body but accepted the punishment to start from the back.

"I think it was pretty much a faultless race from all sides, from the strategy, to myself and the pit stops, everything was good so we did everything we needed to," said Ricciardo afterwards.

"I had fun passing, it wasn't boring out there, so it was pretty much what I asked for. One spot better would have been nice, but fourth is really cool from the pit lane."

Lewis Hamilton won the race and sealed the World Championship after a blistering start at the Yas Marina.

He beat Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg, the only man with a chance of beating him to the title, to the first corner, and didn't really look back as he won his 11th Grand Prix of the season.

Rosberg suffered mechanical problems so Hamilton was able to seal the title in relative comfort.

Ricciardo finished third overall, with Vettel fifth. Red Bull were second in the constructors' championship.

For the last time: Sebastian Vettel and Daniel Ricciardo as team-mates

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Green pops up to hand Dons a point

FROM BACK PAGE

high and wide. Tom Flanagan, in for the suspended Kyle McFadzean at centre back, should have done much better with his header after he was found in the box by Darren Potter with just eight minutes gone.

Dons were being slightly sloppy with their passing from the back early on in the game, and perhaps they were missing the assurance that comes with McFadzean and captain Dean Lewington playing – the latter missing his first game since August of last year due to a hamstring injury.

A lot has been said about the battle for the striker's berth between Benik Afobe and Will Grigg, with many opting for the former recently on account of his goal-scoring exploits.

But Grigg, who got the nod against Dale, certainly isn't a bad player, and he improved his impressive haul for the season to seven by delightfully chipping the goalkeeper in the 16th minute after a wonderful pass by Alli, marking the goal by celebrating in front of one of the empty stands which is fast becoming his trademark.

But that lead was short-lived as Rochdale equalised just minutes later. Reuben Noble-Lazarus crossed in from the right and Flanagan did well to stick his foot out to try and block the cross, but the ball spun into the back of the net to the dismay of the watching fans in the Cowshed, and Rochdale had parity at 1-1.

Stand-in skipper Potter had a potshot at goal from near the halfway line when Logan's clearance didn't go to plan, but the distance proved to be too far as his effort went wide.

The equaliser had brought Dale to life, and Dons were given some work to do from set pieces, with Ashley Eastham heading a corner over the bar after getting the measure of his marker on the half-hour.

Jordan Spence picked out Baker a couple of minutes later, whose powerful shot went over the bar as Dons looked to release a spell of pressure which Rochdale had been enjoying.

Visiting skipper Ian Henderson then shot over the bar after Flanagan and Antony Kay both went for the same ball, and Dons looked like they were missing McFadzean and Lewington at the back.

Battle: Will Grigg fights for the ball

Andrew Cannon then had a great shot on the bounce for the visitors as the game entered first half stoppage time, and Dons had ended the half as the second-best team.

The second half began with a bang as Ben Reeves rattled the crossbar with a thunderous strike following some lovely build-up play by Bowditch and Alli, and that was a perfect early marker to set as Dons were desperately unlucky not to go back in front.

Cannon lashed a shot wide in the 52nd minute as Dons continued to look very unconvincing among the back four.

Alli lifted a wonderful ball for Grigg a couple of minutes later which resulted in a shot which went inches over the bar, before Kay couldn't get enough of a connection with his header from the corner, as Dons tried to hit the front again.

Baker couldn't quite wrap his foot around another effort in the 62nd minute after Potter massively deflected a Rochdale shot, and the clash was very evenly poised.

Henderson was guilty of some poor play a minute later when he strayed offside after the impressive Noble-Lazarus got the drop on Kay to set up a good counter-attack for the Lancastrians.

Kay ran like a steam train to get on the end of a corner which was won by Daniel Powell when his shot was deflected wide, but from just a couple of yards out, the centre back could only head wide as Dons had a glorious opportunity to get back in front.

Powell looked in blistering form down the left hand side when he was introduced, and he forced Logan into a superb save down low to his right as the balance looked to be tipping in Dons favour.

The keeper then did well to charge down Grigg after Powell again initiated panic in the Rochdale defence.

But with 15 minutes remaining, Rochdale delivered a hammer-blow when Noble-Lazarus struck a thunderous 25-yard strike into the back of net, giving David Martin absolutely no chance as the visitors made it 2-1.

Logan did brilliantly to deny Grigg when the striker came to the near post from a corner with ten minutes left, and Dons desperately needed to get a goal back.

And they managed just that in the 84th minute when sub Afobe had his shot saved after some intricate build-up play, and Danny Green swept the ball home to make it 2-2.

Dons made a quick re-start as they pushed for the winner, and there was panic in the ranks of the Spotland Stadium outfit when they needlessly conceded a corner in the 87th minute, although Dons couldn't take advantage of it.

The keeper totally missed a routine set piece into the box as the game entered injury time but Flanagan was unable to capitalise as he blazed the drop-down over the bar.

Afobe disappointingly shot over from a free kick, and an enthralling encounter ended in a 2-2 draw.

ICE HOCKEY

First period shocker hands Peterborough victory

MK LIGHTNING head coach Nick Poole believes the team were as poor as he has seen them in a long time in the first period against Peterborough Phantoms on Saturday.

Lightning shipped three goals in the first 20 minutes and it was always going to be an uphill struggle from there as they eventually lost 4-3 in the English Premier League clash.

Poole's men did manage to level the game at 3-3 but they were undone by a goal by James Ferrara who won it for Peterborough with just 27.5 seconds left on the clock.

"The first period was about as poor as I've seen our team play for years," said Poole.

"It was unacceptable really so we had some pretty strong words between the first and second periods.

"In the second and third the guys couldn't have played any harder, but we lost the game.

"The last goal was a bitter pill to swallow but the first period is where we lost it."

Lightning were unable to put the disappointment of Peterborough behind them 24 hours later when they lost Sunday's contest at Manchester Phoenix on penalty shots following a 2-2 draw.

The Peterborough horror-show began when Lightning defenceman Michael Farn was penalised for interference on netminder Janis Auzins to give Phantoms a powerplay which they took advantage of to score.

Marc Levers supplied Edgars Apelis for a blue line blast which beat goalie Jordan Hedley after six minutes.

Luke Ferrara then put Levers free on the right wing for goal number two just shy of ten minutes and Lightning had it all to do.

Poole called a time out to allow the team to regroup but it had little effect as former Lightning defenceman Tom Norton supplied Luke Ferrara for the third goal after 13 minutes – with Auzins getting the further assist to show how quickly the puck was played from defence to goal.

Lightning were much improved when the second period began with Leigh Jamieson's shot hitting the outside of the pipework in the first 40 seconds before Adam Carr and Milan Kostourek both had the netminder under pressure without result.

It was not until James Hutchinson was given a delay of the game penalty for smashing the puck out of play that Lightning got their chance to cut the deficit with Stan Lascek supplying Kostourek for a close range powerplay goal.

In the third period Kostourek and Lascek struck to level but it was to count for nothing thanks to the late drama.

At Manchester, Lightning twice led through Lewis Hook and Leigh Jamieson, but after levelling both times Manchester picked up maximum points on penalties when Jamieson missed in sudden death.

Milton Keynes are fifth in the table and have two home games this weekend – against Wightlink Raiders in the English Challenge Cup on Saturday and Guildford Flames in the league on Sunday.

SPORTSSHORTS

SKELETON

SKELETON star Rose McGrandle produced an excellent performance to win the first Intercontinental Cup race of the season in Lillehammer in Norway.

The 27-year-old from Milton Keynes broke the track record on her first run, finishing in a time of 53.93s. McGrandle then completed her second run in 54.22s to finish with an overall time of 1:48.15, sealing victory by 0.22 seconds.

"It was great to win the first race of the season – and to put in a new track record on my first run made it extra special," said McGrandle after her victory. "I'm now really looking forward to the next round of races in Konigssee."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

NEWPORT Pagnell Town drew 1-1 with Boston Town in the United Counties League Premier Division, with Keith Williams scoring.

In Division One, Olney Town beat Wellingborough Whitworth 3-1 last Tuesday night, with the goals coming from Deanio Bailey-Browne, Jamie Burrows and a Sam O'Neill penalty.

In the Spartan South Midlands First Division, Stony Stratford Town beat Winslow United 5-1. In Division Two, Willen lost 4-1 to Brimsdown, while Old Bradwell United won 6-3 against Totternhoe.

In the Anagram Records Feeder Leagues Trophy, Wolverton Town were thumped 7-1 by Wormley Rovers. In the Milton Keynes Sunday Football League, Inter Faith beat Olney Town 7-1 and Swanfica lost 3-1 to Willen.

RUGBY UNION

BLETCHLEY'S struggles in the South West One East continue as they were beaten 36-12 by Towcestrians on Saturday, which keeps them bottom of the table.

Milton Keynes were comfortably beaten 48-3 by Aylesbury in Southern Counties North. In Midlands Two East South, Olney lost 36-7 to Biggleswade.

Bletchley Ladies made it seven wins on the trot with an 81-5 success over Fakenham Foxes.

KABBADI

MEMBERS of Bletchley Ladies Rugby Club will travel to India to represent England in the Kabaddi World Cup in December.

Charlotte Gallop, Rachael Appleby, Kirsty Kay and Jen Harris will all be representing their country with England set to square off against seven different rivals.

Kabaddi is a full contact sport, with aspects similar to rugby and judo. England have already beaten of stiff competition with three tough, but successful, European qualifying games against Scotland, Poland and Italy.

ATHLETICS

LIAM Smith won the London University 3000m title with a fine 9m 33.46s, and was also third in the 1500m recording 4m 33.39s.

HOCKEY

MILTON Keynes Ladies 1sts picked up their third straight win and moved up to seventh in the table thanks to a 3-2 success over Hampstead and Westminster 3rds.

The men's 1sts lost 5-1 to Havant in the South Hockey League Premier Division One.

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McGrandle shines in Lillehammer
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Robinson takes positives as Dons draw with Dale

LEAGUE ONE
MILTON KEYNES DONS 2
ROCHDALE 2

BY SCOTT KIRK
scott.kirk@mk-news.co.uk

DONS boss Karl Robinson took the positives despite his side having to settle for a point against a visiting Rochdale side last night.

The clash was one of Dons' three games in hand as they look to make up ground on the League One leaders and despite Rochdale being in a relatively lofty seventh place, many saw it as an ideal chance for three points.

In the end they could only take one after falling behind in the second half and are now five points adrift of leaders Bristol City in fourth – but still have two games in hand on all three sides above them.

Robinson's side did enough to win the match but the boss feels the game is one his team could have lost in years gone by, so the point is a well-earned one.

Dons suffered Tuesday night misery on more than one occasion last season and have been known to come away empty handed from games they dominate – a trait they seem to be shaking off.

"We've used our game in hand to go one point closer," Robinson said.

"I remember Gillingham and Shrewsbury coming here and winning when we were so dominant. We do need to learn from the mistakes of the past."

The first real chance of the night fell to Carl Baker in a similar position to where he scored against Port Vale on Saturday in the 1-0 win.

This time though, from the right, his near post shot was saved by Conrad Logan, and Rochdale were able to clear before Dele Alli could pounce on the rebound.

Some slick passing enabled Dean Bowditch to have the next opportunity of the night for Dons with four minutes on the clock, but his effort from the left hand side was

TURN TO PAGE 59

Settle for a draw: Dons' Dele Alli in action against Rochdale yesterday.

Knights won't ride home next season as plans to return fail to gain steam

THE return of speedway to Milton Keynes has been put on hold for another year at least, according to the city's MK Knights.

Plans to bring the team, who currently race in Mildenhall, back home after more than 20 years away from the city were revealed by the British Speedway Promoters Association in September, who said suitable land had been found and that a promoter and backers were in place.

However, the plans haven't yet progressed and the Knights – this season's Midland Development League champions – will race at the West Row track in Suffolk again next season.

A dialogue had been maintained between the club and the proposers who Knights invited to their end of season celebration – but for reasons which are still unclear they were unable to attend.

A statement from the Knights said that details of the homecoming remain vague at the moment, which is why the team will race again at Mildenhall.

"The current promotion are still fully committed to supporting this proposal and as any further information becomes available we will make it known," the statement said.

Knights have struck up a relationship with West Row landlords Mildenhall Fen Tigers who race in the National League – the third tier of British speedway.

Both clubs have agreed to work together to build a pool of riders who can progress through the ranks from Midland Development League level, with the Knights hoping for a blend of youth and experience in their squad next season.

"Currently we are optimistic that 2015 will see the return of inspirational skipper Jez Pestell to lead the team and we are actively looking at other riders to complete the squad," the Knights statement added.

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